

Demirel's coalition partners

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's next prime minister, Süleyman Demirel, lacking a parliamentary majority, pondered possible coalition partners Tuesday. Delaying immediate talks with other parties, Mr. Demirel spent the day at home in Ankara plotting strategy with close aides in his True Path Party (DYP), a party official said. Mr. Demirel, 67, said Monday he would not rush into a coalition but would discuss options with all party leaders. Unofficial results gave the DYP 180 seats in the 450-member parliament with 27.2 per cent of the vote in Sunday's general election. The Motherland Party, in power for eight years, came second with 113 seats from 24 per cent of the popular vote. "A coalition is inevitable. We do not reject anything," said Mr. Demirel, six times prime minister since 1965 and twice ousted by army coups in 1971 and 1980. Newspapers said he could ally either with outgoing Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's Motherland Party or the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) led by Erdoğdu Inönü which won 88 seats. Neither party has ruled out joining a Demirel government. Mr. Yilmaz said Monday he did not favour a coalition partnership with Mr. Demirel, but his party would "do what is expected of us to avoid a political crisis in Turkey."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Pakistan now nuclear power — scientist

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan's top nuclear scientist Abdul Qader Khan was quoted Tuesday as saying his country had become a nuclear power. Mr. Khan told Businessmen on Monday that his colleagues at a nuclear plant under his control were making sophisticated arms, Karachi's independent daily the Dawn said. Pakistan has previously dismissed suspicions in the West that it is making nuclear weapons, saying its nuclear programme was peaceful and geared to meeting future energy needs. The Dawn quoted Mr. Khan as saying that whether anyone believed it or not, it was a fact that Pakistan had become a nuclear power and was at present concentrating on manufacturing sophisticated arms to fulfil its requirements. The announcement sent a wave of jubilation among 200 businessmen and industrialists present at the dinner meeting to Karachi, the newspaper said. The scientist was not immediately available to clarify his remarks. The United States cut off all military and economic aid to Pakistan in October last year because of fears it had accelerated its nuclear weapons programme in response to building tension with India over a secessionist revolt in Indian Kashmir. A European ambassador in Islamabad said Tuesday that Pakistan would continue officially to deny that it has a nuclear weapons programme.

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Arafat: Delegates are PLO

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat conferred with Soviet and French officials Tuesday about next week's Middle East peace conference and said he considers all Palestinians to be PLO members, including the delegates to the talks.

Israel has said it would quit the conference if the Palestinian delegates have PLO connections or declare that the PLO appointed them.

Arriving from a fast-paced swing through the Middle East, Mr. Arafat met for 90 minutes with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin to discuss the peace talks scheduled to open Oct. 30 in Madrid under joint U.S.-Soviet sponsorship.

The two refused to answer questions afterwards, but said in a joint statement: "The chances provided by the Madrid peace conference should not be missed."

"A just solution of the Palestinian problem is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli settlement," they said.

Mr. Pankin was among officials from 19 countries in Paris to sign a Cambodian peace agreement on Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat, after an earlier meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, commented on Israel's demand that the Palestinian delegation in Madrid have no links to the PLO. "All Palestinians are members of the PLO, whether they are inside or outside the occupied territories," he said.

"No one can hide the sun with his fingers," he added.

Mr. Dumas, according to a spokesman, told Mr. Arafat that the peace conference "offered a very great opportunity to the Palestinian people."

Mr. Arafat also met with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, making his first state visit to France.

Earlier Tuesday, President Francois Mitterrand said he would not meet Mr. Arafat during the PLO leader's visit here in order to avoid any possible disruption of the peace conference.

Mr. Mitterrand, in a radio interview, said he would avoid a meeting with Mr. Arafat prior to the conference in Madrid because such encounters "could create a doubt, a suspicion."

"Nothing should be done that could disrupt the process which has been undertaken," Mr. Mitterrand said.

Mr. Mitterrand has met with Mr. Arafat on previous occasions and said he would do so again in the future.

Mr. Arafat flew to Paris after a swing through the Middle East to try to coordinate Arab approaches to the talks. While in Cairo on Monday, he said any Palestinian delegation would in effect represent the PLO.

"Each and every person among the Palestinian people represents the PLO," Mr. Arafat said after meeting with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

He said the Palestinians attending the talks would coordinate closely with PLO officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday ruled out contact with PLO advisers at the peace conference, but gave no sign that their presence would scuttle the meeting.

"We will not speak with these advisers. Secondly, they will not be present in the room during the deliberations of the conference," Mr. Shamir told a news conference at the European Parliament.

"We will not speak with them and they will not ask us any questions," Mr. Shamir said. "If the representatives at the conference say that they speak on behalf of the PLO we will not speak with them."

He did not say whether Israel would walk out.

The man named to head the Palestinian team, Gaza doctor Haidar Abdul Shafi, said Monday the negotiators would if necessary publicly declare their loyalty to the Tunis-based PLO.

Asked if he and other delegates were representing the PLO, Mr. Abdul Shafi, 72, told Israel's army radio: "In the sense that all

Husseini announces Palestinian delegation and advisory panel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini Tuesday announced a 14-member Palestinian delegation for the upcoming Middle East peace talks after a day of heated debate over last-minute changes.

Outmanoeuvred by Israel into naming no delegates from Arab East Jerusalem or outside the occupied territories, the Palestinians also named a seven-person advisory committee to include such Palestinians.

Israeli newspapers reported Tuesday that Israeli officials have criticised the advisory committee as a way to sneak in delegates with whom Israel refuses to deal — including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Husseini, who has been barred from the formal delegation because he is from Arab East Jerusalem, will head the advisory committee.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a 72-year-old physician, has already been announced to head the official delegation. Dr. Abdul Shafi was expelled from Gaza to 1967 when it was seized along with the West Bank in the 1967 war, but he was later allowed to return.

While most of the delegates will be unknown to the outside world, they represent the leadership that has grown up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the past 24 years of Israeli occupation.

Among those considered as delegates and advisers, at least nine men have been jailed by Israel for activities against the Jewish state. Some have been put under house arrest, expelled from their homes or refused

permission to travel abroad. The delegates include doctors, lawyers, professors, a mayor and a former mayor deposed by Israel, and even one man who is the son of a Jewish mother and a Palestinian father.

The announcement came at a news conference delayed for four hours by disagreements over how many negotiators would come from the West Bank and Gaza, and the number of representatives for factions other than the PLO's mainstream Fatah, sources said.

Following is the Palestinian negotiating team as announced by Mr. Husseini:

— Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, 72, Head of the Palestinian negotiating team. Medical doctor and a PLO founder from the occupied Gaza Strip. Headed Palestinian parliament there during Egyptian rule.

— Zakaria Al Agha, 49, the Gaza Strip. Medical doctor. Member of Palestinian delegation that negotiated with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, supporter of Fatah. Head of the Gaza Medical Association.

— Elias Freij, 71, the West Bank. Mayor of Bethlehem since 1972. On first team to meet Mr. Baker. Politically described as a moderate among Palestinians.

— Ghassan Al Khatib, 36, West Bank. Lecturer at West Bank's Bir Zeit University and owner of a Jerusalem-based media centre. Supporter of the Palestinian Communist Party.

— Saeb Erekat, 36, the West Bank. Lecturer at the West Bank's Al Najah University and editorial writer for Palestinian Al Quds daily. Backs the PLO. Holds a U.S. passport.

— Samir Abdallah, the West Bank. Economics lecturer at Bir Zeit, close to the Communist Party.

— Saoud Kassar, 38, the West Bank. Businessman known as a strong supporter of Fatah who has

met Israeli leaders. Was released in a prisoner exchange in 1985 and lives in Nabulus. His mother is Jewish.

— Abdel Rahman Hammad, 45, the Gaza Strip. Dean of engineering school at Bir Zeit University. Graduate of University of Wisconsin. Considered a Fatah supporter.

— Nabil Qasbi, 44, the West Bank. Physics lecturer at Bir Zeit University. Involved in dialogue with Israelis during tenure as vice president of university's academic affairs.

— Fakh Abu Modin, 47, the Gaza Strip. Head of the Gaza Bar Association known to support Fatah.

— Sami Kilani, 42, the West Bank. Physics lecturer at Al Najah University. Known as supporter of the Yasser Arafat faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Placed under town arrest and "administrative detention" several times.

— Mustafa Nasseh, 52, the West Bank. Engineer by profession and prominent PLO figure in town of Hebron. Has taken part in Israeli-Palestinian meetings and supported Israel's Peace Now movement.

— Dr. Nabil Jaabari, 43, Jerusalem. Dentist by profession and head of Hebron University's board of trustees. PLO supporter. Imprisoned for six months during Palestinian revolt. Married to a Briton and lives in Jerusalem.

— Mamdouh Aker, 47, the West Bank. Surgeon and independent activist in town of Ramallah. Very close to Mr. Husseini and Hassan Ashrawi who negotiated with Mr. Baker. Interrogated and arrested for 40 days this year on suspicion of aiding an underground group and writing leaflets.

Following are the seven Palestinians named to serve as the "guidance committee":

All are supporters of Fatah except

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Arab coordination meeting to be held in Syria today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber will take part in a meeting with his counterparts from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) due to be held in Damascus today, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The meeting will seek to coordinate the positions of the Arab parties ahead of the Middle East peace conference scheduled to convene in Madrid on Oct. 30.

Dr. Abu Jaber received an invitation to attend the Damascus meeting from Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharrar, it said.

Officials said in Amman that Jordan and the Palestinians were putting the final touches to the strategy of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which will attend the peace conference.

A senior official of the PLO is expected to arrive here to contribute to "direct the Palestinians" in a technical committee ahead of the conference, Reuters said. It identified the official as Nabil Shaath, a political adviser to PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The team is overseeing research and negotiation strategies on water rights, borders, Israeli settlements and other crucial issues, a Palestinian source said.

The Palestinian side of the joint delegation announced in occupied Jerusalem by Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini on Tuesday is scheduled to arrive here Friday. The names of the Jordanian side to the delegation have not been announced.

Dr. Abu Jaber indicated Monday that the Jordanian delegation would be announced by the end of the week.

Jordanian officials said the joint team, consisting of 14 members on each side for the talks, would be led by Foreign Minister Abu Jaber for the opening session.

PLO and Jordanian officials have said only seven of the 14 on each side would sit at the table at any one time.

The joint team leaves next Tuesday for Madrid.

An advance team of officials left for Spain Tuesday.

3 Israeli soldiers injured in Lebanese ambushes

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers were wounded Tuesday in two separate bomb attacks in South Lebanon, security sources said.

Both attacks took place inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" where three Israeli soldiers were killed in a bombing on Sunday.

The Islamic Resistance, a coalition of groups led by Hizbollah (Party of God), claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attacks in the village of Qantara near the Israeli-Lebanese border.

It said 15 Israeli soldiers were killed in the blasts.

"As the Israelis sent another patrol to the area of the first blast a unit of the Islamic Resistance set off a bomb in the assembly of Israelis," said a statement by the Islamic Resistance.

Hizbollah, in a communiqué released in Beirut, claimed five Israeli soldiers were killed and another was wounded in the first attack that targeted an armoured personnel carrier.

The communiqué said the second attack also targeted an Israeli patrol in the same area in Taibeh, killing 10 soldiers.

Witnesses said Israeli warplanes flew over South Lebanon after the first blast and Israeli artillery shelled a string of villages just outside of the "security zone."

The Jewish state and its client militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), control the 15-kilometre-deep strip, set up in 1985 to stop cross-border guerrilla raids on Israeli targets.

Security sources said there was increased movement by the Israelis and the SLA inside the zone following the assaults.

Israel and the SLA have been on heightened alert since Sunday's bombing of an Israeli patrol by Hizbollah.

Israeli jets flanking a Hizbollah base near the South Lebanon village of Jibsheh Monday. Lebanese security sources said the target was a medical centre, Israel insisted it was a command post.

Egypt offers to help mend PLO-Gulf relations

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt, encouraged by the course the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has taken since the Gulf war, has offered to help it try to mend fences with the Gulf states, an aide to the PLO chairman said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other Gulf Arab states cut off their crucial financial aid to the PLO because of Chairman Yasser Arafat's outspoken support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The PLO chairman's main political adviser, Nabil Shaath, said President Hosni Mubarak offered Egypt's assistance during talks in Cairo with Mr. Arafat Monday.

"President Mubarak offered to help and said it would take time. He explained the trauma suffered by the Gulf Arabs and said reconciliation is going to happen soon," Mr. Shaath, who attended the talks, told Reuters.

"There was absolutely no trace of rancour between Arafat and President Mubarak. I've never seen Mubarak as cordial and supportive even during the good times," Mr. Shaath said.

Mr. Arafat, once a frequent visitor to Cairo to coordinate joint peace moves with Mr. Mubarak, had not been a welcome guest in Egypt for the past 14 months.

Arab diplomats said Mr. Mubarak has asked Foreign Minister Amr Musa to offer Egyptian documents and maps related to the Arab-Israeli conflict to Palestinian negotiators at the talks.

"Mubarak also said the PLO could employ any private Egyptian expert to help in the peace talks and offered the help of Egyptian international law and other experts working for the government to assist the Palestinian negotiator at the peace talks," one diplomat close to the Cairo meeting said.

Egypt has wide experience gained during tough negotiations that led to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has voiced hope and prayers for a solution to the Palestinian issue at the Middle East conference.

Prince Hassan returns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at Amman Airport Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath who returned home from Rabat after a several-day visit to Morocco.

During the visit, Prince Hassan met with King Hassan II of Morocco and discussed with him bilateral relations and ways of promoting and bolstering them.

King Hassan decorated the Crown Prince with the Moroccan Royal Academy Medal in appreciation of his contribution to the activities of the academy and his status among intellectuals.

Prince Hassan took part in the academy's meetings, which were attended by the Moroccan

monarch in addition to intellectuals from Arab, Islamic and foreign countries.

He delivered a speech to the academy on "Does the Right of Intervention Bestow New Legitimacy Upon Imperialism?" Prince Hassan also visited the U.K. where he underwent a minor surgical operation.

Receiving Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath at the airport were also members of the royal family, Prime Minister Taher Al Masri, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, and other dignitaries.

Shamir asserts 242 is only a 'guideline'

STRASBOURG (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday forecast possible progress towards a Middle East peace settlement, but said Arab states must first move towards democracy and stop threatening Israel's existence.

Mr. Shamir told the European Parliament that Israel did not oppose the raising of any territorial issues by Arab negotiators at the Middle East peace conference opening in Madrid on Oct. 30.

But he said if "hostile" hands got control of the Israeli-occupied West Bank "the area would turn into a launching pad for an attack against the heartland of Israel."

"We can never permit this to happen. Relinquishing this area is an invitation to war."

Mr. Shamir said there were limits to the risks Israel could take because "our first duty is to survive."

The Israeli leader said he believed there was hope for peace between Israel and its neighbours, but it would not come before four developments took place.

First, there had to be a real change of heart on the Arab side, because almost the whole Arab World rejected Israel and differed only about how to win the conflict. He said he saw no concrete sign of such a change.

Second, Arab governments should express unequivocal readiness to deal with Israel directly, on an equal footing, in peace negotiations.

"Third, it would be encouraging if even the smallest beginning of democracy in the Arab countries becomes noticeable," Shamir said.

He said it was particularly unfortunate that "the free world" did not seem interested in pressing Arab states towards the kind of democracy seen in eastern Europe.

Fourth, Arab states should grant

the few Jews who remained in their territories basic human rights, he said.

I am referring specifically to the Jews of Syria, who are in effect prisoners of the Syrian government, (and to) the right to emigrate and join their brethren in other parts of the world."

Mr. Shamir said U.N. Resolution 242 required Israel, once a just and lasting peace was achieved, to withdraw its armed forces from some but not all the territories it occupied in 1967.

"Resolution 242 must be seen as guidelines to the negotiators. It leaves the issue of borders entirely to the agreement of the parties in accordance with the principles it sets out," he said.

Mr. Shamir said there were no short cuts to a peace settlement and there was a need for patience and consistent effort. All sides should also refrain from feeding unwarranted expectations.

French socialist parliamentarian

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Pankin: Peace talks should tackle easy problems first

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Soviet Union's foreign minister suggested Tuesday that Middle East peace negotiators dispose of less-contentious issues before venturing into the quagmire of Arab East Jerusalem and other highly emotional subjects.

Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's suggestion for the peace conference opening next week in Madrid, Spain, indirectly endorses a key proposal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He was requested repeatedly that Arabs and Israelis take steps to build confidence in each other before settling down to talk peace in earnest.

Ending a regional tour in Cairo Mr. Pankin also said resuming diplomatic ties with Israel last week strengthens Moscow's hand in dealing with the Jewish state.

Mr. Pankin's tour comprised Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The Soviet diplomat answered reporters' questions after a 75-minute meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, then left immediately for Paris.

In France, Mr. Pankin was scheduled to meet with Yasser

Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Mr. Arafat also ended a Cairo visit Tuesday and flew to Paris a few hours ahead of the Soviet minister.

"It is useful for the parties to concentrate in the beginning on the easier issues which are more prone to a quick solution, and after that they can move to the more difficult... like the question of Jerusalem," Mr. Pankin told reporters.

The United States has also tried to keep Jerusalem in the background to prevent the peace conference collapsing.

Israel refuses to discuss East Jerusalem, which it occupied and "annexed" in 1967. The Palestinians see the Arab side of the city as the capital of their future state.

Palestinian officials say the status of Jerusalem should be discussed early in the peace talks.

"Jerusalem should be first, middle and last and never put to rest during the different phases of the talks," Nabil Shaath, political adviser to Mr. Arafat, said Tuesday.

Child death rate rises 5-fold in Iraq — independent panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Infant and child mortality in Iraq has nearly quadrupled since the end of the Gulf war because of food and medicine shortages and widespread contamination of drinking water and poor sanitation, according to a draft private report.

In addition, more than 900,000 Iraqi children under five years of age are malnourished, and the rate of low birth weight has doubled or tripled since the war ended, said the report funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and by several private foundations.

A final version of the report was released Tuesday in London. Several members of the U.S. House of Representatives charged Monday that the Bush administration and the United Nations seem unaware of the gravity of the problem or are content merely to blame Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for the situation.

"You really have not come to grips with the humanitarian problem in Iraq," said Democrat Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee, speaking to Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

"My impression is that very

little is being done inside Iraq to alleviate the suffering," added Mr. Hamilton at a hearing on the implementation of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Republican Jim Leach and Democrat Tim Penny called for more urgency on the part of the United States and international relief agencies.

The report assessing health and economic conditions in Iraq was the result of work in August and September by an 87-member team that included experts in public health, agriculture, engineering, psychology and medicine. The study was done without Iraqi government help or supervision, the report said.

"Unless Iraq quickly obtains food, medicine and spare parts, millions of Iraqis will continue to experience malnutrition and disease," the report stated. "Children by the tens of thousands will remain in jeopardy. Thousands will die."

Health officials who surveyed 9,034 households throughout Iraq estimated that the death rate among children under five years old has increased from 28 deaths per thousand births to 104 deaths per thousand since the Gulf crisis.

During their visit that began Oct. 12 and is now ending, Mr. Pickering's inspectors found more evidence of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme while checking the formerly secret



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath upon their return from abroad after visits to Morocco and Britain (Petra photo)

Freed U.S. hostage arrives in Germany

WIESBADEN, Germany (R) — American hostage Jesse Turner, freed after a 1,731-day kidnap ordeal in Lebanon, arrived in Wiesbaden Tuesday to be reunited with his wife and meet the four-year-old daughter he has never seen.

Mr. Turner, 44, flew to the U.S. Rhine-Main air base near Frankfurt and transferred by helicopter to a military hospital adjoining Lindsey air station in nearby Wiesbaden.

Fundamentalist kidnappers released Mr. Turner Monday night and handed him over to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. He taught mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College until he was abducted on Jan. 24, 1987.

Looking cheerful and relaxed as he stepped off his helicopter in Wiesbaden, he smiled and waved to a small crowd of well-wishers.

Mr. Turner spoke to reporters only briefly in Damascus, saying: "I am very happy to be freed and I am looking forward to see my family and friends."

Mr. Turner and three university colleagues were seized by gunmen posing as policemen giving a lesson on how to avoid abduction.

The kidnappers, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, had previously released two of the academics but one, American Alann Steen, is still being held.

The kidnappers are swapping the Western hostages for Arab prisoners held by Israel. Israel is releasing the prisoners in exchange for missing Israeli servicemen or their remains.

Iraqis admitted research on nuclear arms, Ekeus says

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq has admitted it had a nuclear weapons programme, U.N. officials said Tuesday. The belated admission comes a month after U.N. inspectors seized documents detailing Baghdad's programmes to develop atomic and hydrogen bombs.

The Iraqis admitted that they had a "research and study" programme on nuclear weapons, said Rolf Ekeus, the chief U.N. weapons expert.

The admission was made to Dimitri Pericos, the head of the latest team of inspectors from the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to visit Iraq, Mr. Ekeus said.

The Iraqis denied that they were actually constructing nuclear weapons, saying that depended on a political decision to proceed with the project.

U.N. weapons experts have estimated that Iraq could have built a working nuclear bomb in as little as 15 months, and said Baghdad was only restrained by the rate at which it was making enriched uranium.

During their visit that began Oct. 12 and is now ending, Mr. Pericos' inspectors found more evidence of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme while checking the formerly secret

plant at Al Ather, about 65 kilometres south of Baghdad, which was only lightly bombed in the Gulf war. Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Pericos' team destroyed some high-speed centrifuge equipment used to enrich uranium to weapons-quality strength, and some reprocessing equipment used to separate usable uranium and plutonium isotopes for weapons, Mr. Ekeus said.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly debated a resolution Tuesday morning commending the IAEA for supervising the dismantling of Iraq's nuclear programme.

Overwhelming adoption of the resolution had been expected, but a last-minute Iraqi amendment postponed the vote until Wednesday.

Mr. Ekeus said Baghdad admitted it had been conducting a "research programme," on nuclear weapons, after having said for months that its nuclear programme was only peaceful.

"They admitted it, but grudgingly," said Mr. Ekeus. His special commission is charged with dismantling all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — longer-range missiles, superguns, and nuclear, biological and chemical weapons projects.

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Iraqi leader honours Gulf war heroes, sees better future

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein told a nation suffering from sanctions and shortages Monday that they had faced the worst in the Mother of Battles against the U.S.-led allies and relief was at hand.

He said even "those of little faith," would be surprised by his nation's recovery.

President Saddam Hussein, decorating his Gulf war commanders with some of the highest honours of state, said that things would change, "and this change will be comprehensive and deep and will have a long term effect."

"The difficult circumstances faced by our people will be followed by a great recovery, God willing, and it will surprise the people by its greatness... even those who had little faith," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying.

The Iraqi leader appeared to be addressing the sufferings of 18 million people who have endured two Gulf wars in 10 years and are now under the clamp of trade sanctions and war damage affecting their daily lives.

The government says some 60,000 children have died because of a drug shortage caused by the freezing of its overseas assets because of its invasion of Kuwait and that food production has been hit by Gulf war bombing and U.N. sanctions.

President Saddam paid tribute to the country for its resolve in facing "the hardest circumstances, because I do not believe that the nation has faced or will face difficulties as great as those faced in the Mother of Battles," he said.

The Iraqi leader made no mention of sanctions in a 20-minute address to a gathering of the leadership, all in military garb.

His tone contrasted sharply with a defiant address eight days ago when he said Iraq could endure sanctions for 20 years "without asking anything from anyone."

He has promised change for the better since the U.S.-led coalition ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in February. Among the government's pledges are a freeing of the economy and a

multilateral democratic reform.

He made no specific pledges in his speech, which was shown on television, but spoke of "life-saving change" under the ruling Baath Party and its commitment to unity, freedom and socialism.

"I do not mean by life-saving the accumulation of money, but a spiritual, historical and moral gain," said President Saddam, shown in reflective mood in green combat fatigues surrounded by the regional command of the Baath Party.

"It (change) will not be limited to a certain part of the people but will be for a whole generation of people in great Iraq," he said.

He decorated the regional leadership of the Baath Party, which includes Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Interior Minister Ali Hassan Al Majeed and Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan.

They were awarded a variety of decorations including the Mother of Battle sword, the Rafidain Medal and the Bravery Medal.

Iraqis find Tomahawk missile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraqis have found an intact Tomahawk cruise missile, one of the key weapons used by the United States in the Gulf war, a Pentagon source said Monday.

In the opening weeks of the war against Iraq, 280 of the highly accurate missiles rained destruction on Baghdad and other key strategic targets.

A Pentagon official said the Iraqis appear to have obtained one of those weapons that was fired at a target but failed to detonate.

"They must have dug it up, or found it somewhere in the desert," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Although the long-range missile is crammed with high-tech guidance systems that send it on a certain path in order to hit a specific target, the official said the missile found by the Iraqis is no longer operable.

"It's kaput," he said. "They can't shoot it either."

The official brushed off concern that the find might be an intelligence coup for the Iraqis.

"We're really not worried about it," he said. He explained that it was expected in warfare that some remnants of battle would be found on the battlefield.

However, the fact that such a missile remained intact does indicate that its non-nuclear warhead failed to detonate for some unknown reason, the official said.

He declined to describe how the United States knew of the Iraqi find, saying that information was too sensitive to discuss.

The Tomahawks were launched from ships and submarines during the effort to oust Iraq from Kuwait, the first time the weapons were used in combat.

After the war, Pentagon officials said a total of 280 Tomahawk missiles were used against Iraq. Although only conventional warheads were used during the war, the weapon can carry a nuclear warhead.

The Tomahawks cost \$1.3 million each and weigh from 1,175 to 1,440 kilos depending on the booster used to launch the weapon.

After being launched from ships or submarines, the missile is propelled by a solid propellant rocket booster until it reaches its target, sending it as far as 1,400 kilometres to its target.

The weapon had a highly successful role in the air war because it can fly at low altitudes below a radar system's range, making detection difficult.

After the war, Pentagon officials acknowledged that some of the Tomahawks may have been shot down or knocked off course by Iraqi anti-aircraft guns or surface-to-air missiles, but they said at the time that they had no hard evidence of any shoot-downs.

Those officials said a study of the Tomahawk's performance concluded that at least 80 per cent of the missiles fired at Iraq had hit their targets. That figure did not include the missiles that fell short or long but still managed to damage the target.

Bush to meet Gorbachev one day before peace talks

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush will meet Mikhail Gorbachev in Madrid the day before a Middle East peace conference opens there next week and leave immediately after the opening session, the White House said Monday.

The Bush-Gorbachev meeting on Tuesday Oct. 29 will be the seventh in 2 1/2 years.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush would leave Washington on the evening of Monday, Oct. 28, and meet the Soviet president in Madrid after an overnight flight.

Mr. Bush also planned to meet one or more other leaders the next day and hold a news conference, Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev will address the opening session of the Middle East peace conference Wednesday Oct. 30. Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush will return to Washington immediately after the talks begin.

The invitations to the conference went out Friday and formal responses are due in Washington on Wednesday by 6 p.m. (2200 GMT).

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters: "We're encouraged by the responses and the public statements from invitees, but I don't want to go into the status of each response because this is a quickly evolving situation."

Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinians have said publicly they would attend the historic meeting in Madrid. Egypt and the European Community will also be participants.

Observers include the Gulf Cooperation Council, a representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Maghreb states.

The opening session is intended to be ceremonial, lasting two or three days and filled by speeches by participants.

Four days later, bilateral negotiations are to begin between Israel and each of the Arab parties on peace, borders and numerous other issues.

Mr. Boucher said an operational U.S.-Soviet core group is already in Madrid working with Spanish authorities on arrangements for the conference.

"We expect many of the details will not be finalised until we're much closer to the conference in 10 days," and will be announced by the U.S.-Soviet core group, he said.

At their Moscow summit in July, the U.S. and Soviet presidents set the stage for the negotiations among Israel and its Arab neighbours by announcing they would co-sponsor the conference.

Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin were to preside over the conference following opening ceremonies. The countries involved were to be represented by their foreign ministers.

Hussein announces delegation

(Continued from page 1)

Zuhair Kamil, who backs the Ahd Rabbo faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine that favours peace talks. All are natives of Jerusalem.

Faisal Husseini, 50, head of the committee, is the leading supporter of Fatah in the occupied territories. He is a moderate who taught himself Hebrew during 18 months under army detention so he could explain Palestinian views to Israelis. His father, Abdul Kader, was a Palestinian war hero who fell leading a battle against the Jews on Jerusalem's outskirts in 1948.

Hanan Ashrawi, 45, is a professor of English literature at Bir Zeit. She is an Anglican, the only Christian in the group. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and is known for poetry, short stories and literary criticism. During the Gulf war, she was often called on for commentary by U.S. television networks. She lives in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Zuhair Kamil, 46, was born in Jerusalem and remains a resident of the city. She founded and heads the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees in the occupied territories. Mr. Kamil was jailed for six months without charge for his anti-Israeli activities in 1979. On other occasions, she was put under house arrest or banned from international travel.

Rashid Khalidi, 46, who teaches at the American University of Beirut, was the Lebanese civil war. In the early 1980s, he joined the political science faculty at Columbia University in New York City. He now teaches at Chicago State University in Illinois.

Kameel Mansour, 50, a Palestinian author living in Paris. He was a researcher at the Foundation of Palestinian Studies in Beirut.

Sari Nusseibeh, 42, is a professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit. He holds a Ph.D. in Islamic philosophy from Harvard University. His family has been in the region at least since the time of the Muslim conquest. Saladin in the 12th century. Israel imprisoned him for three months in the Gulf war, accusing him of passing information to Iraq but never formally charging him. He lives in Abu Dis, a Jerusalem suburb.

Anis Al Ousseini, 60, a Palestinian lawyer now living in London. He worked in Kuwait for more than a decade.

Arafat: Delegates are PLO

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO, so they are."

Mr. Shamir said Monday he still had to ensure that the proposed Palestinian delegation met Israel's terms for attending the talks.

"This is an issue we must analyse, examine and we will see if this list meets the rules we have accepted," he said before flying to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament. "We will have to check the names and we will act accordingly."

Mr. Arafat said he had asked French leaders to help ensure that the peace conference would implement a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

France will not attend the conference, although the European Community will be represented by the Netherlands, current president of the 12-nation bloc.

Palestinian hardliner Ahmad Jibril Tuesday denied making death threats against Palestinians due to take part in next week's peace conference.

"I said... participants in the Madrid peace conference would face attacks from women and children. A day will come when participants would no longer live safely in Palestine," Mr. Jibril told Reuters.

"I advise Palestinians to resign or withdraw from the so-called peace conference," he said.

A PLO spokesman in Tunis has earlier accused Palestinian extremists of playing into Israel's hands with bellicose criticism of the conference and threats to disrupt it through violence.

Spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman was responding to reports that Mr. Jibril, in Tehran for a meeting of groups opposed to peace talks, had issued death threats against the Palestinian delegation.

about to recognize the party you are negotiating with," said the Israeli official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The United States hopes the planned three-day ceremonial summit will launch historic one-on-one Israeli peace talks with Syria, Lebanon and Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Diplomatic sources in Washington said this week that Syria, one of Israel's staunchest foes, wants the direct bilateral talks to take place in Madrid to stress they are an outgrowth of the conference.

The Israeli official emphasised however that Israel remains opposed to broad international involvement in settling its conflict with the Arabs.

"Our expectation is to have negotiations face-to-face with nobody from the outside present and... after the first meeting to move the negotiations to the area," the official said.

"We have in mind one meeting of the bilateral groups. (Then) we would request to move the talks to the area... the respective other countries and Israel," he said.

Australia welcomes Mideast peace parley

AMMAN (J.T.) — Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans has welcomed the decision by the United States and the Soviet Union to issue invitations to a Middle East peace conference to start in Madrid on Oct. 30.

He said Australia wholeheartedly supported the planned peace conference and wished the participants every success in negotiating their differences.

"Nobody underestimates the difficulties that will be involved in the negotiating process after 43 years of bitter enmity and four bloody and destructive wars," he said.

"It would be truly tragic if this historic opportunity to resolve the wider Middle East problem were lost."

"I hope that all those invited will agree to attend and that all the parties will refrain from any action that could jeopardise the prospects for the conference."

Senator Evans said the fact that the invitations had been issued reflected enormous credit on the United States and on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"Mr. Baker has been tireless and extremely skilful in his diplomatic efforts to bring the parties together."

"In what he has done so far he has undoubtedly given effect to President Bush's reaffirmation after the Gulf war that the United States would seek to achieve a Middle East peace settlement."

Mr. Evans praised the constructive role played by the Soviet Union in the peace process, including its reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.

He said Australia's policy towards the Middle East is based on two main premises: A total commitment to Israel's right to exist within secure and recognised boundaries, and recognition of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, including their right, if they so choose, to independence and the possibility of their own independent state.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

8 killed as clans clash in east Lebanon

BAALBEK, Lebanon (R) — At least eight people were killed and 17 wounded when two Shiite Muslim clans clashed in the East Lebanese town of Baalbek, security sources said Tuesday.

Members of the Jafar and Midjel clans fought for six hours Monday with mortars, machine-guns, anti-tank rockets and artillery in the ancient town 70 kilometres east of Beirut, the sources said. Jafar gunmen shelled the Sheikh Abdallah Barracks overlooking the town, nominally policed by Syrian troops, they said. The former Lebanese army barracks is a major base for the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and is one of several places where Western hostages are believed to have been held. Hizbollah denies involvement in hostage-taking. Iranian Revolutionary Guards are also stationed at the Hizbollah base. The sources said Hizbollah militants had then clashed with members of the Jafar clan and captured some of them. Syrian troops cordoned off the area and curbed the fighting. The sources said two of the dead and four wounded were Hizbollah members while the other six killed were Jafars. The battles were sparked by the killing of a Midjel family member by a Jafar a week ago, the security sources said.

Gunmen fire on police car in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Gunmen raked with fire a patrolling police car in southeastern Turkey early Tuesday, injuring one policeman in the first reported violence since Sunday's general election. The semi-official Anatolian news agency said the unidentified gunmen escaped after the attack in the city of Diyarbakir. The campaign before the parliamentary elections was marred by rural and Kurdish violence. A policeman and a guard were killed last Friday in a bomb blast at a Motherland Party district office in Istanbul. Last Thursday, a member of Motherland contesting the elections was wounded in the western town of Bursa by unidentified gunmen. The election put an end to the Motherland's eight-year rule and gave veteran politician Suleyman Demirel a narrow win. Mr. Demirel is now seeking political partners to form a viable coalition government.

Scare forces S. African jet to land in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A bomb scare forced a South African Airways jumbo jet bound for London with 246 people on board to make an emergency landing in Egypt Tuesday, aviation officials said. The pilot sought permission to land at Luxor, Upper Egypt, after a steward found a note pinned to the mirror of one of the Boeing 747's lavatories saying a bomb was on board and was set to explode at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT). No bomb was found and the 220 passengers and 26 crew disembarked and resumed their journey, the officials added.

Levin named Israeli ambassador in Moscow

TEL AVIV (AP) — Aryeh Levin was officially named Monday as Israel's new ambassador in Moscow, the first after a 24-year rupture in diplomatic ties, the Itim news agency reported. Mr. Levin has served as Israel's consul in Moscow since the Soviet Union and Israel restored consular ties in 1987 and 1988, respectively. "No doubt, his presence in Moscow and his quiet activity there have contributed to the rapprochement between the two countries," Itim quoted foreign ministry spokesman Baruch Binah as saying. Israel and the Soviet Union restored full diplomatic relations last Friday.

Seven Kuwaitis, Iranian arrested

NICOSIA (AP) — Seven Kuwaitis and an Iranian were arrested in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province for smuggling people out of Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. (The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said some of those arrested in the past few days also smuggled birds and livestock out of the country. Iran enforces strict emigration laws under which teenagers nearing the draft age of 18 or over are not allowed to leave the country without pledging financial guarantees that they will return.

Iraq denies S. African deal

Iraq has rejected charges that it obtained arms and ammunition from South Africa, including state-of-the-art 155-millimetre howitzers capable of delivering nuclear, chemical or conventional warheads.

In response to an inquiry earlier this year from the U.N. Committee Against Apartheid, Iraq's U.N. mission said such allegations were made "in dubious newspapers" and were designed to "mar Iraq's reputation as part of the well-known Western and Zionist media campaign... which began, in an organised fashion, at the beginning of 1990."

Shamir asserts 242 a 'guideline'

(Continued from page 1)

Claude Cheysson, a former foreign minister, said Mr. Shamir had shown himself "ready to consider a number of issues which until now had never been mentioned," particularly concerning the basis of talks about a partial withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"He says U.N. Resolution 242 does not mean that Israel should withdraw from all occupied territories, but he accepts that it means a withdrawal from certain occupied territories," Mr. Cheysson said.

He said Mr. Shamir did not say he accepted the principle of such a withdrawal, but added: "When he confirmed that the conference talks along the basis of such resolution, he also accepts the fact that that resolution means the withdrawal from certain territories."

However, Mr. Shamir contested the idea that Israel should freeze settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank soon after the peace conference opens as Palestinian leaders are urging.

"The fact that it is not the problem, because most of what you call the occupied territories is Israel and will be Israel. Therefore it is not a question of foreign settlements. It is a question of settlement by Jews in their own country," Mr. Cheysson said.

"With regard to other territories... and by that he meant the Golan Heights... the situation is different, but that is open for negotiation. For me this is very important."

Mr. Cheysson said Mr. Shamir placed great emphasis on the role of mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel in giving the Jewish state a new dimension in the future "with more population, talent, scientific advance and a larger role at world level."

Belgian Christian Democratic parliamentarian Len Tindemans, another former foreign minister, said Mr. Shamir had been positive about an EC role in the peace conference, but it was largely up to the EC to achieve this.

Mr. Tindemans said Mr. Shamir and the parliamentarians discussed the possibility of an "economic rapprochement" between Israel and the Arab neighbours. The EC Commission is keen to provide technical expertise for future regional cooperation in such areas as water and energy, but wants rich Arab states play a big role in funding such measures.

A senior Israeli official said Tuesday that Israel would insist that the peace conference be followed by bilateral talks in the Middle East, including Israel.

Raising a potential snag to the U.S.-brokered peace process, the official told foreign correspondents that Arab negotiators would show a sincere readiness to live in peace with the Jewish state by exchanging visits with their Israeli counterparts.

"If you are indeed about to engage in a peace negotiation then you have to demonstrate you recognize or are

about to recognize the party you are negotiating with," said the Israeli official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The United States hopes the planned three-day ceremonial summit will launch historic one-on-one Israeli peace talks with Syria, Lebanon and Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Diplomatic sources in Washington said this week that Syria, one of Israel's staunchest foes, wants the direct bilateral talks to take place in Madrid to stress they are an outgrowth of the conference.

The Israeli official emphasised however that Israel remains opposed to broad international involvement in settling its conflict with the Arabs.

"Our expectation is to have negotiations face-to-face with nobody from the outside present and... after the first meeting to move the negotiations to the area," the official said.

"We have in mind one meeting of the bilateral groups. (Then) we would request to move the talks to the area... the respective other countries and Israel," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00... Le Mond est a Vous
19:00... News in French
19:15... News in Arabic
19:30... News in Arabic
20:00... The Family Man
21:10... Cosmos
22:00... News in English
22:20... Equal Justice

PRAYER TIMES

04:23... Fajr
05:40... (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:20... Dhuha
14:30... Asr
17:00... Maghrib
18:17... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661727
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683266
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures and rise in humidity will take place and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman, Min. Max. temp.
15/27
Aqaba... 21/35
Deraa... 14/28
Jordan Valley... 22/34
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman...

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

min 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

Food Control Centre... 637111
Civil Defence Department... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate... 63041
Rescue... 199
Fire Brigade... 891228
Blood Bank... 775121
Highway Police... 843402
Traffic Police... 843405
Public Security Department... 63021
Hotel Complaints... 605800
Police Complaints... 661176
Water and Sewerage... 897467
Amman Municipality... 897467

Complaints... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)... 121
Overseas Calls... 010230
Central Amman Telephone... 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair... 661101
Jordan Television... 723111
Radio Jordan... 744391
Water Authority... 680100

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali... 740740
Dr. Mohammad Sharawi... 658878
Dr. Khaled Hameed... 753222
Dr. Jouda Hameed... 776046
Fina pharmacy... 661912
Ferdous pharmacy... 778326
Al Asana pharmacy... 637055
Nakurah pharmacy... 626272
Al Salama pharmacy... 636730
Yaacub pharmacy... 644945
Samedani pharmacy... 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mazah Ghazalbeh... (—)
Al Shams pharmacy... (273825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Hussein... (—)
Khalil pharmacy... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111
Civil Defence Department... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate... 63041
Rescue... 199
Fire Brigade... 891228
Blood Bank... 775121
Highway Police... 843402
Traffic Police... 843405
Public Security Department... 63021
Hotel Complaints... 605800
Police Complaints... 661176
Water and Sewerage... 897467
Amman Municipality... 897467

Complaints... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)... 121
Overseas Calls... 010230
Central Amman Telephone... 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair... 661101
Jordan Television... 723111
Radio Jordan... 744391
Water Authority... 680100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority... 815615
Electric Power... 636381
RJ Flight Information... 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport... 06-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre... 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn... 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn... 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity... 642362
Mahab, J. Amman... 636140
Palestine, Shamsia... 6641714
Shamsia Hospital... 843845
University Hospital... 6672219
Al-Musayib Hospital... 6672219
The Islamic, Abdal... 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdal... 6641646
Hussein, Al-Mahajra... 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman... 77511126
Azy, Maria... 87611715
Queen Alia Hospital... 6024050
Amal Hospital... 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital... (09)905060
Jin Sina Hospital... (09)987312
Al-Hussein Medical Hospital... (09)909090

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00... Damascus (RJ)
06:30... Jeddah (RJ)
06:45... Larnaca (RJ)
06:45... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:00... London (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:00... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:00... Istanbul (RJ)
11:00... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15... London (RJ)
12:30... Cairo (RJ)
13:30... Colombo (RJ)
13:30... New Delhi (RJ)
13:30... Dhahran (RJ)
13:30... Riyadh (RJ)
13:30... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:30... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:15... Beirut (ME)
06:15... Beirut, Rome (AZ)

17:25... Istanbul (RJ)
18:00... Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:10... London, Brussels (RJ)
18:10... Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:25... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00... Sanaa (Y)
12:30... Cairo (MS)
14:00... Baghdad (UN)
15:00... Tripoli, Damascus (FK)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:00... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:00... Istanbul (RJ)
11:00... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15... London (RJ)
12:30... Cairo (RJ)
13:30... Colombo (RJ)
13:30... New Delhi (RJ)
13:30... Dhahran (RJ)
13:30... Riyadh (RJ)
13:30... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:30... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:15... Beirut (ME)
06:15... Beirut, Rome (AZ)

13:00... Sanaa (Y)
13:05... Cairo (MS)
13:05... Baghdad (UN)
13:05... Tripoli, Damascus (FK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple... 250/300
Banana... 300/450
Beans (Mashmash)... 350/500
Beans... 380/520
Cabbage... 170/220
Carrots... 280/320
Cucumbers (large)... 150/200
Cucumbers (small)... 360/500
Eggplant... 220/380
Garlic... 300/380
Onions... 300/400
Lentils... 230/260
Mint (large)... 150/200
Mint (small)... 320/360
Olives... 350/450
Onions (dry)... 150/220
Potatoes (new)... 250/320
Pepper (green)... 400/520
Potatoes... 300/320
Sage... 600/700
Spinach... 220/360
Sweet melon... 250/320
Jawar... 220/320
Watermelon... 150/40



Opera and Concert Ltd officials discuss opening of Opera Don Pasqual today during press conference at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental

Opera Don Pasqual to open today

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan, the Opera and Concert Productions (Worldwide) Ltd. will present Don Pasqual at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental today.

The opera tells the story of an elderly bachelor who decides to recapture his youth by marrying a young bride who, unfortunately for him, has other plans.

On Thursday, the group will perform a number of Broadway hits including "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserables, "Nice Work If You Can Get It" from George Gershwin's "A Damsel in Distress", "Moonlight Serenade" by Glenn Miller, and Maria from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story.

The Opera and Concert Productions Ltd. was established in 1987 by Barbara Segal, the group's soprano and concert director. It was founded upon the desire of the company to stage opera performances in remote areas around the world and build bridges of friendship amongst people of different religions, colour and traditions.

As an independent company, Opera and Concert Productions Ltd. has achieved worldwide recognition as it hosts a number of singers from different opera houses such as the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera of New York, La Scala, Milan and many others.

"I have a computer at home and I choose the singers who are available to tour with us and

sometimes singers approach me," Miss Segal said in a press conference held at the hotel.

As part of their travels, the company often donates a concert or establishes a scholarship for projects it feels are well deserving.

Since its establishment, the company has toured around the world and performed in Britain, Singapore, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain, Switzerland and Kuwait. Most recently, the company has toured to perform in Kuwait in a benefit concert to "Rebuild Kuwait," but was not granted visas because "it was considered by the Kuwaiti authorities a security risk," Miss Segal said.

Nine factories closed for poor performance

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine factories producing cement tiles were ordered closed Tuesday because of their failure to comply with standard Jordanian specifications and manufacturing poor quality products.

A statement said that Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb decided on the closure of the nine factories, located in a number of regions in Jordan, when it was evident that their owners had violated the regulations concerning standards and specifications.

The statement said that the measures were taken in a bid to emphasize the need for all Jordanian factories to abide by standards of quality of various products.

The statement said that the ministry was maintaining inspection on all factories to ensure that they abide by the regulations. Inspection teams will be making spot checks now and then at different factories to take samples of various products found in the market for testing. The statement called on all manufacturers to maintain the good quality of various national products to ensure their continued sale and to avoid having to face legal measures for violations.

Study finds condition of poor in Kingdom worsening

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 20,000 families in Jordan live in abject poverty and could have been classified as "a starving group" had it not been for the help and trickle of aid reaching them from Jordanian charitable organisations, according to a study recently conducted by the Ministry of Social Development.

If not for the government-run National Aid Fund (NAF), the Zakat Fund, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and others, the 20,000 families could virtually starve, said Dr. Mohammad Segour, the ministry's secretary general, at a seminar held at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation earlier this week.

The study confirms an earlier survey conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which found that no less than 33 per cent of Jordanians live under the

poverty line. The current survey goes a step further in pointing out that at least 20,000 families are not only very poor, but live in abject poverty and have no source of income whatsoever.

The study showed that those in the "abject poverty" category have an average 11.62 family members compared with the average poor Jordanian family, which has an average of 7.04 members, Dr. Segour said. The study generally showed that an average Jordanian family spends 37 per cent of its income on food, 26 per cent on housing, 6.3 per cent on clothes, 11.5 per cent on education, 11.9 per cent on health and 7.2 per cent on transportation and communications.

The study also found that the number of those living in abject poverty account for 1.5 per cent of the total population.

To bridge the gap and raise the standard of living for the very needy, the country has to spend nearly JD 2.5 million on feeding and caring for these citizens an amount totalling JD 30 million annually, according to Dr. Segour. He added that only JD 7 million is being spent annually to meet this goal.

The Ministry of Social Development's study showed that poor families live on JD 70 a month while spending by the average family in the country is JD 135 a month.

The study defined the poverty line for families as those that only receive JD 50 a month and noted that each family of an average 7.2 members requires the JD 50 each month to get sufficient calories for its members.

The study attributed the causes of poverty in Jordan to the following: an upsurge of

the volume of unemployment, an increase in the number of large families, a rise in the population growth rate, decline in economic growth, an increase in the number of disability cases and low level of education and vocational training among poor families.

According to the study, 20 per cent of the total number of Jordanian families own or earn at least 45 per cent of the overall income in Jordan.

Commenting on the results of the study, GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib said that the present development system adopted in Jordan was bound to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

He said the solution for the problem does not lie in the statements of various ministers or officials in this country but rather in a very effective system that would provide for all citizens.

Masri praises Chamber of Industry for efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan Tuesday received a letter from Prime Minister Taher Masri praising the chamber's efforts to develop and promote the industrial sector.

Mr. Masri also noted the chamber's active contribution to advancing the industrial sector.

The prime minister voiced appreciation to the chamber's president and members for the efforts they put in issuing the English version of the Comprehensive Industrial Directory.

Officials preparing for joint Jordanian-French committee meeting

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The joint Jordanian-French committee will convene in Amman Thursday to discuss a host of questions of common concern and scopes of cooperation in a number of fields, according to an announcement Monday.

The announcement was made by Dr. Safwan Touqan, Ministry of Planning secretary general, after a meeting in his office with Philippe Cardinal, the cultural attaché at the French Embassy in Amman.

Embassy sources told the Jordan Times that the committee, which was established in 1965,

aims at bolstering French-Jordanian cooperation in cultural, scientific and technical fields. Following the conclusion of the 1965 agreement, the committee held joint meetings in Amman and Paris alternately every three years to review progress of joint cooperation.

The Amman meeting will last until Oct. 27 and will be the ninth of its kind grouping teams of experts from the two sides, the sources said.

According to the French Embassy, the two sides will review general outlines for cooperation over the next three years in the following fields: agricul-

ture, medicine, judicial sciences, water telecommunications, tourism, geothermy, oceanology, cartography, archaeology, teaching of French in Jordanian schools and universities, music, artistic cooperation, radio and television.

The Cardinal-Touqan meeting Monday discussed preparations for the Thursday meeting in which at least seven French specialists will take part.

According to Mr. Touqan, the two sides will draw up a new protocol for cooperation between Jordan and France in these fields and the heads of the two teams will initial the protocol at the coming meetings.

UNDP calls for war on poverty, involvement of women

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a statement on the eve of United Nations Day Wednesday emphasising the need to recognise that the global war against poverty can never be won without the creative, positive and full involvement of women.

The statement, issued by UNDP Administrator William Draper, reaffirmed the United Nations drive to ensure dignity of the human person and equal rights of men and women in various parts of the world.

Following is the text of Mr. Draper's statement: "We celebrate United Nations Day this year by reaffirming our commitment to the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, particularly in 'the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small."

"In formulating our statement of purpose this year, UNDP drew from the Preamble because it puts people squarely in the centre of our work. UNDP is people serving people towards the goal

of human development. In country after country, from Benin to Russia, from Albania to Cape Verde, 1991 has witnessed the irresistible pull of the forces of democratization, of people standing up and demanding that their voices be heard.

"However, people-centred development is hollow if it does not impact on the development of women and men, nor harness the creativity and energies of both. We are all acquainted with the statistics that put literacy rates among women lower than men; the limited access women have to opportunities for training, technology and credit; the burden of work attached to multiple roles at home, in the workplace and in the community. We are also well acquainted with the dynamism of women and their critical role in the issues that face the world today: food security, environmental protection and overpopulation.

"UNDP is committed to the inclusion of women in all our priority programmes on poverty alleviation and grassroots parti-

cipation, environment and natural resources management, technical co-operation among developing countries and transfer and adaptation of technology. In so doing, we must work to bring down the walls of prejudice and indifference that render women's contributions invisible. Some of our recent success stories include a rural education project in Nepal that taught six thousand women to read and write; an entrepreneurs training programme that helped more than seven hundred Haitian women improve their skills and obtain low-interest bank loans; and a pre-natal care programme in Senegal that saw all 614 of its participants give birth to healthy children — a remarkable survival rate on a continent where one out of every 21 women die as a result of complications from pregnancy or delivery.

"Together with our partners we must resolve to meet the challenge of how best to deliver programmes that truly bring about the advancement of women."

Minister calls for DEF to increase help to poor

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz Tuesday chaired a meeting for the Development and Employment Fund's (DEF) Administrative Committee and discussed with its members means of activating it by enhancing the role of middle institutions through which loans for individual projects are provided.

The committee reviewed the conditions of social work institutions and the role of middle institutions in reaching groups in poor areas. Dr. Fariz stressed the flexibility of the fund's policies, saying that it is equipped to deal with changes in the labour market and to provide the necessary assistance to help the government in its efforts to tackle the unemployment problem.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Hungary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Hungarian President Arpad Goncz congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on his country's national day. The King wished President Goncz continued good health and happiness and the Hungarian people further progress and prosperity.

Queen opens wildlife reserve

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday stood in for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the Dana Wildlife Reserve in Tafeluh Governorate. The timing of the opening of the Dana Reserve coincides with the silver jubilee of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). RSCN President Anis Musaher said that the Dana Reserve is one of 12 wildlife reserves the society, in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, has been planning to set up since 1978. He noted that the Dana reserve is the 6th such reserve the RSCN has set up. He pointed out that the RSCN will set up around the end of this month a tourist camp, equipped with all the essential services to encourage regular tourism to this area.

Minister receives Omani ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Tuesday received the Omani ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them. Mr. Khatib stressed to the Omani ambassador the need to unify the ranks of the Arabs and Muslims and called for coordinating their stands.

Parliamentary delegation leaves for Lisbon

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation Tuesday left for Lisbon to take part in a conference on Euro-Arab Dialogue, scheduled to take place there Friday. The conference will discuss a number of issues relating to Euro-Arab cooperation in the parliamentary field. The delegation comprises Member of the Upper House of Parliament Marwan Al Qassem, Member of the Lower House of Parliament Hussein Mujalli and Khalid Al Lawzi from the Parliament's general secretariat.

Department holds courses for farmers

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Agriculture Department started holding courses Tuesday for farmers in the Zarqa Governorate to familiarise them with various agricultural issues. Department director Ibrahim Ahy Atileh said the courses aim at acquainting the farmers with ways of spraying insecticides in accordance with a specified programme, ways of improving seeds and using agricultural machinery and other topics of interest to them.

CONDOLENCES

The Jordan Times family would like to extend their deepest condolences for the passing away of Mr. Ikhlis Sati, father of staff reporter Nur Sati, who died late Monday night from a heart problem. May his soul rest in peace.

Concert Review

Wide-ranging programme delights enthusiastic audience

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, and organised by the National Music Conservatory and the British Council in Amman, a recital of clarinet and piano was given on Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Nick Carpenter on clarinet, and David McArthur on piano delighted a reasonably sized but enthusiastic audience with a programme ranging from Schubert to contemporary, composer Paul Harvey.

1991 being Mozart's year, most concerts worldwide are to include at least one piece by the famous Austrian composer. However, none was featured in yesterday's recital. Mr. Carpenter explained to the Jordan Times that Mozart did not write any specific clarinet-piano music.

Both artists demonstrated perfect synchronisation, a deep sense of musicality and impressive technique. Nick Carpenter's playing went from beautiful legatos in Robert Schumann's 'Fantasies', jazzy glissandos in Paul Harvey's 'Studies on Gershwin's Themes' and witty rhythms in

Humphrey Searle's 'Cat Variations'.

Other pieces like John Ireland's 'Fantasy Sonata' or Benjamin's 'Le Tmbeau de Ravel' seemed to be a little difficult for the audience. The somewhat austere atmosphere of certain compositions would have benefited from a more direct contact with the audience, like when Mr. Carpenter talked to his listeners and personally introduced each of the 'Cat Variations'.

Mr. Carpenter's career includes performances with the London Philharmonic and well known pianist Tamas Vasary. Mr. McArthur has won several major prizes at the Royal Scottish Academy and participated in the 1980 Frédéric Chopin competition in Warsaw.

Presented by such highly talented musicians, the programme, combining romantic and contemporary music, would have had a better impact had it been played in another sequence, with a better structural and homogeneous orientation.

More quality concerts are scheduled before the end of the month at the Royal Cultural Centre. Music lovers stay tuned.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shammoun, Khalid Khreis and Mohammad Hussein Abdallah at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Ismael Khayyat, Mohammad Abdallah, Khater Mohammad, Ali Mandelawi, Khalid Wahl and Hisham Ali at Baladna Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safway).

★ Art exhibition by Fadia Jalal Nabulsi at the British Council.

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Burchhart (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Laban, Haidi Bassem, Akh Abu Judeh and Suwaid Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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One standard for all

THE FIVE permanent members of the Security Council last week supposedly started meetings in London to discuss U.S. President George Bush's proposal to develop means for controlling the flow of arms to the Middle East. According to news reports the London conference are expected to arrive at certain guidelines to limit the flow of conventional arms deliveries to Middle Eastern states.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs Richard Clarke had earlier told a congressional panel that the arms limitation process "will move parallel with the political (peace) process and can feed back and reinforce political progress," adding that arms control was an "unknown phenomenon" to states in the region. "They have sought security in secrecy, not transparency. They have sought peace through arms alone and not through limitations," Mr. Clarke was quoted as saying.

In his remarks, the American official failed to mention three things. One is that the United States has, since the creation of the state of Israel, pledged to ensure that the Jewish state should always have a military edge over all its Arab neighbours combined. Two, that the U.S. has always turned a blind eye towards, if not actively supported and encouraged, Israel's development of a nuclear arsenal capable not only of annihilating Arab urban life but of also striking at the Soviet Union. Third, the U.S., under the aegis and blessing of the U.N., continues to strip Iraq of all its weapons of mass-destruction including that Arab country's nuclear research programme, without asking Israel to lift a finger to reduce its own weapons arsenal.

While the U.S. does all of this and firmly opposes every Third World attempt at developing nuclear capabilities — in Pakistan, Iraq, India, North Korea and Algeria — it shies away from making any effort at even investigating the Israeli stockpile of mass-destruction armament we could understand that the U.S., during the cold war era, considered Israel's nuclear capability as part of the West's deterrent nuclear force. But now with the end of that era and the rapid dismantling and control of East/West nuclear arsenals, the Israeli threat remains without any logical justification only this time it is obviously targeted against the Arabs.

As long as the Israeli nuclear threat persists, and that is likely to be a drawn-out affair, some Arabs will endeavour to acquire that capability themselves. Nuclear technology, sophisticated as it may be, is no more the monopoly of the few. Sooner or later, one or more Arab states will develop its own technology and stockpiles. No mechanism for arms limitation short of disarming Israel of its nuclear arsenal will do. If the Big Five are sincere in their quest for a safe and peaceful Middle East they need to do more than making arms delivery to the region transparent. Peoples in this region, like peoples everywhere, detest and fear nuclear weapons. If other nations, in Europe, Central Asia and America deserve a nuclear-free environment, the volatile Middle East urgently needs it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday launched a strong criticism of Iran for taking a negative and hostile stand vis-a-vis the Middle East peace conference and for breaking its promises to help Iraq during the Gulf war. Jordan is keen on bolstering Iranian-Arab relations and looks with hope towards genuine Islamic solidarity to safeguard Arab and Islamic interests, said the paper. But, it said, the conference going on in Tehran to deny the peace conference can by no means serve pan-Arab and Islamic interests. Had the Iranians been concerned over Arab and Islamic blood they could have offered the Palestinians more than lip-service throughout the occupation and they could have offered some help to their Iraqi brothers as they had promised before the raids started, said the paper. Tehran knew during the war against Iraq that it held the trump card and its support for Iraq could have turned the tables on the enemy, said the paper. The paper warned the Palestinian elements opposing the peace parity against taking steps to prevent the Palestinian delegation from participating in the conference, saying that no help to the Palestinians was forthcoming from those who had been giving them empty promises. The paper said that those opposing the idea of the peace conference should be delighted to have the chance to prove to the world that they were right and others were wrong, should the conference fail to achieve results. The paper said that the Iranians did nothing so far to come to the help of the Iraqi and Palestinian women and children and the starving people of Iraq, thus going back on all their promises and breaking all their Islamic commitments to help their brothers in time of need.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that there are indications that the Tehran conference was planning to offer practical help to the Palestinian people under occupation, and if the reports are correct, it will be the first time that the Iranian regime has done something meaningful to the Palestinian cause. Mahmoud Al Rimawi said that the Iranians should realise that mere words of solidarity with the Palestinians can by no means bring delight or satisfaction to their Arab brothers, especially the Palestinians facing the occupation forces. The writer said that the Iranians can and should take practical steps, at the diplomatic level, to call for the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions in Palestine so that justice can be established. The writer said the Tehran conference sources said that Iran plans to call on Islamic countries to set up a standing budget to give to the Palestinians to support their resistance and steadfastness and to give to the families of martyrs. When Iran's revolution broke out 12 years ago its leaders promised such assistance to the Palestinians but nothing materialised all these years. The writer said that should something constructive take place now, it would be a real and meaningful support in word and deed to the oppressed Palestinians.

Arabs, Israelis bring conflicting agendas

By Barry Schwed
The Associated Press

MADRID — Arabs and Israelis will come to the Middle East peace conference in just 10 days with wildly conflicting goals that the Bush administration admits might be irreconcilable.

The Arabs hope to emerge with land, Israel with peace. But the Jewish state is loathe to relinquish territory that includes its Sinai security buffer, oilfields, two airfields and settlements.

"The road to peace... will not be simple," said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, whose eight arduous Middle East trips this year set up the peace talks. "To the contrary, it will be extremely difficult, with many problems, many hitches and probably many interruptions along the way."

The gaps are obvious even in little ways. For instance, there is a furious fight going on between Israel and Syria over where to hold the negotiations after the ceremonial first round.

Israel prefers to Middle East and Syria wants to stay in Madrid, or at least Europe. It's part of Israel's strategy to deal directly with the powers and the Arabs to bring outside pressure to bear.

Even seating arrangements and the shape of the negotiating table haven't been worked out, though Mr. Baker managed to snuff out one fire before the invitations went out: there will be no flags displayed, which means the Palestinians won't be able to project a symbol of a state that Israel is determined to block.

Far more serious are the clashing objectives of the Arabs

and Israelis.

Going into the conference, Israel is vowing not to yield any more of the land it won in the 1967 war. The Arabs want a total withdrawal and the Palestinians want to build a state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with its capital in Jerusalem.

Even if Israel agrees to surrender land because of pressure from the United States, the conference begins without Arab assurances Israel would get peace treaties in exchange.

In a candid moment Friday night, a senior U.S. official said: "The Syrians believe the Israelis want peace for peace, and the Israelis believe the Syrians want territory for non-belligerency. And I'm not going to sit here and tell you before they get together and negotiate, that we've already

changed their positions."

The Palestinians, meanwhile, were driven to participate in the peace talks by the hope that the momentum of the negotiations might lead to a separate state.

While the Bush administration is on the record as opposing statehood, Mr. Baker carefully sidestepped the point by making no reference to the U.S. policy in a letter of assurances delivered Friday night to Faisal Husseini, a Palestinian leader.

Any one of those matters could be the explosive issue that might blow up the conference and set back peace prospects. Even such usually trivial matters as seating arrangements have that devastating potential.

Once before, in 1973, there was a Mideast peace conference. It, too, was loosely planned, and

it ended in failure in only a few hours when only the United States was willing to sit alongside Israel.

On the other hand, President Jimmy Carter invited Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David in 1978 without a set script and with virtuoso ad-lib diplomacy steered them to the peace treaty that was signed the next year on the White House lawn.

Mr. Baker isn't taking on that kind of an active role, though the telephone is within easy reach. He will make a speech in Madrid and fly home.

Mr. Baker will make a speech, as well, and stay in the Spanish capital for the two or three days the ceremony will take. If the talks break down — and Mr.

Baker isn't ruling out what he politely refers to as "interruptions" — he might step in and even resume his shuttle diplomacy.

Throughout the sessions, there will be American — and Soviet diplomats available. They will join the talks only at the request of both sides. American diplomats are being assigned individually to each of the delegations.

When the timing is right, Mr. Baker or a lower level official will make proposals designed to break deadlocks.

"There ought to be some ability to move some things forward positively in terms of the relationship between Israel and Jordan, and to deal with the situation in Lebanon," a senior U.S. official said.

The Middle East and the new Soviet Union

By Julia Slater

"I am resigning. Let this be my protest against the onset of dictatorship," the words of Edward Shevardnadze on Dec. 20, 1990. Eight months later, on Aug. 19, 1991, it seemed as if events had proved him right, when Mikhail Gorbachev was deposed. Mr. Shevardnadze had been the target of attack for his pro-Western policy. Mr. Gorbachev was deposed because he had led the country into economic ruin and political chaos. It was an issue of domestic politics, but those who removed him blamed him for selling out Soviet interests to the West.

This analysis was shared outside Soviet borders by those who think Mr. Gorbachev has led the USSR into a situation where it danced to any tune the U.S. chose to play. Libya and Iraq in particular welcomed his downfall and were unrepentant about it. Mr. Gorbachev picked out Muammar Qadhafi and Saddam Hussein, by name as the two world leaders who failed to congratulate him on his return to power. But for them his "new thinking" has put an end to confrontation between the superpowers and left erstwhile allies dangerously exposed in a unipolar world. At the same time, under his leadership the Soviet Union has found itself — or at least admitted itself to be — in such dire economic straits as to be obliged to go begging to the West.

It is no secret that Mr. Gorbachev had gradually lost the esteem of both reformers and conservatives at home. The eight men who set up the State Committee for the State of Emergency (SCSE) undoubtedly expected to find support at grass roots level among a population fed up with shortages, chaos and uncertainty. But they were grey men; two nonentities, one has-been, and the five others, though relatively familiar, quite uncharismatic.

The Soviet Union has changed, and the SCSE did not measure up to the change. The parliamentary system, inefficient and cumbersome as it may be, has provided a forum for voicing a real debate,

and the media coverage means that people know and care what the issues are. Deputies in parliament have coalesced into two more or less formal blocs. Conservatives have formed Soyuz, fighting a rear-guard action in the witchhunt atmosphere after the coup. Radicals, though more divided, have come together in groups like Democratic Russia, a party of Boris Yeltsin supporters now in the ascendancy. While the main issues revolve around the question of what kind of country the Soviet Union is to be, and foreign affairs are peripheral, it so happens that two Middle East issues have offered a touchstone for the internal debate between conservatives and radicals: the Gulf war and Jewish emigration.

The Gulf War

Opinion over the Gulf war divided more or less along opposite lines from the way it did in the West. Within days of the invasion of Kuwait, Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Baker produced a joint declaration condemning it. In spite of its last-minute peace initiative, the Soviet Union followed the U.S. line in the United Nations and voted consistently with it. Liberal commentators rejoiced at the end of the age of confrontation, and raised the issue of past Soviet dealings with murky dictators. A lot of "self flagellation" — as one called it — went on. "Soviet aid helped to build on different soil the same thing as in our country: autocratic, authoritarian systems," said one writer in *Zvezda*, though another commented sarcastically, and presciently, that after seven decades of dictators Soviet commentators seized on any opportunity to attack them. "In order to reappraise our past and provide 'protection' for the future." Some deputies from Democratic Russia even called for Soviet forces to join the coalition.

It is impossible to know how Soviet public opinion itself divided: the army paper *Krasnaya Zvezda* said its readers' letters were split 50-50. Both the Kuwaiti and Iraqi embassies claimed to have heard from large numbers of volunteers clamour-

ing to go and fight. The main motive reported among supporters of Iraq was to combat U.S. imperialism.

Support for a peaceful resolution was, of course, much stronger than a desire to fight on either side, though for a variety of reasons. Unlike in the West, the anti-war movement has always been a strong, establishment movement in the USSR, enjoying genuine support from a population which remembers, and is frequently reminded of, its appalling sufferings in the second World War; it is now reinforced by fear of getting involved in another Afghanistan.

Die-hard conservatives took a stronger line. On the one hand, they were profoundly unhappy to see the Soviet Union letting down its allies and thus forfeiting its international credibility, as they believed: on the other, they claimed that the war was a war for oil, and being fought in the interests of the U.S., the U.K. and Israel. In addition, as in the Arab World, many admired Saddam for standing up to the U.S., and admired him as a great and tough leader. There are many Soviet citizens, even knowing what they know now, who still say, "at least under Stalin there were sausages in the shops;" eye-witness coverage from Iraq in the run-up to the war remarked on how much better stocked the shops of Baghdad were than were those of Moscow, sanctions or no. The end of the war removed the issue from the public eye, but at the beginning of August a Soyuz delegation went to Iraq and came back as enthusiastic as ever — and still gunning for Mr. Shevardnadze over his Gulf policy.

Emigration to Israel

Whatever their disquiet over the Gulf, for the radical Arab countries Mr. Gorbachev's fault par excellence is that he has allowed the massive exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. The issue of Jewish emigration from the USSR and attitudes to Israel is related to the question of anti-Semitism. Freedom of emigration is the inevitable consequence of full acceptance of the Helsinki

agreement, which is an inherent part of Mr. Gorbachev's new thinking. Had Soviet Jews been free to go before, it is impossible to know how many would have left — certainly only a small proportion would have chosen Israel. As Soviet barriers to emigration by its citizens were removed, Western barriers were removed. Israel is alone in actually encouraging immigrants, who are all but barred from their preferred destinations.

But Mr. Gorbachev has not only lifted the obstacles; the Soviet Union that he has created has made emigration all the more desirable. In the first place, the bleak economic outlook encourages people to leave. In the second place, there has been a general crisis of faith. The beliefs on which three generations of Soviet citizens have been brought up, for which millions have suffered and died, have been swept away as worthless and nothing has been offered in their place. The cement of Marxism and patriotism that used to bind society together is crumbling, and people are looking elsewhere, often to their own cultural and religious roots — Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist. And as people look to their roots and as they become disenchanted about their economic prospects, so ethnic tensions flare up. In different parts of the Soviet Union — Nagorno Karabakh, South Ossetia, the Fergana Valley, to name but three of the best known, people are being killed and driven from their homes. So far it seems that there have been no attacks on Jewish population, though there have been threats and rumours, and instances of the profanation of cemeteries, while anti-Semitic slogans are brandished at Russian nationalist rallies blaming Jews for the ills of the Soviet Union over the last 70 years and more.

During the long years when Jewish emigration was so difficult, it was the favourite cause of the dissidents who have now presumably become today's liberals and reformers. New thinking seems not to have changed their perception, it has simply proved them right. Unfortunately anti-

Semitism and anti-Zionism have long been confused in Russian thought. Anti-Semitic Russian nationalists like Pamyat, who seem to believe in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and see "Zionist plots" everywhere, declare their support for the Palestinian cause; liberals tend to have written off Arabs as people who live in a time warp, and appear unable to grasp why the Arabs fear an unlimited exodus. Democratic Russia went so far as to call for a demonstration against Arabs who supported the coup, and threatened to demand the closure of the PLO mission in Moscow because of it. Pro-Western generalists appear to hold away in the foreign ministry; Arabists complain that their voices are not heard.

Israel reaps the benefit

Mr. Shevardnadze's foreign policy, continued by Alexander Bessmertnykh and now by Boris Fankin, has been to take ideology out of foreign relations. Relations with Israel have improved greatly, with an exchange of consuls, agreements for exchanging trade and expertise in a range of areas and numerous visits by Israeli ministers to Moscow. Influential voices — among them Mr. Shevardnadze's — are calling for the resumption of full diplomatic relations. But rapprochement with Israel is not the sole preserve of liberals; even the disgraced prime minister and ex-SCSE member Valentin Pavlov met Yitzhak Shamir in London in April and had "an amicable conversation" with him, though he was guarded about renewing diplomatic ties. Indignant readers still write to conservative papers and express their disgust at this compromise with a country which has not changed its policies towards the Arabs, but since the Gulf war benefits from relations with Israel no longer even have to be weighed against losses incurred by the anger of the richer Arab nations, with whom Moscow has also improved relations over the past few years.

Glasnost has brought about another development in foreign relations too, with the encouragement of "popular diplomacy,"

contacts at unofficial level, and greater freedom given to the republics to make their own foreign contacts. Israel has skillfully exploited the opportunity this has opened up, capitalising on the presence of Jewish communities in all the Soviet republics to open up business deals, give religious and cultural support to Jews and sow good will generally. It has given practical help to victims of the Armenian earthquake and the Chernobyl disaster. The policy is paying off, with the republics now independent, or hoping to become so, declaring that they want to have missions in Israel. The Arabs, on the other hand, have been slow to move in even on the so-called "Islamic republics," and these have in any case been more inclined to look for partners on ethnic and geographic grounds in Turkey and Iran. Only Saudi Arabia seems to have made a concerted effort to engage in unofficial diplomacy, and that with gifts of the *Qur'an* and money to build mosques.

Mr. Gorbachev said on his return from detention in the Crimea that he had returned to a different country. Now it is even more different. Israel is already looking ahead and wondering whether to worry: Minister Yuval Davar in June expressing the fear that as the Soviet Union declines, leaving a bipolar world, the U.S. may prefer 21 Arab states and their oil to Israel and its problems. Among the plethora of welcomes for greater independence for the Soviet republics, Yehud Barak, chief of the Israeli armed forces' general staff, said on Israeli TV that secession by the Central Asian republics runs counter to Israeli interests, while the radio reported that Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan were now putting red tape in the way of Jews wishing to emigrate. It is a cliché to say that the future is unpredictable, but it is still better to look which way the wind is blowing than to hope the clock will turn back.

Julia Slater works for the BBC monitoring service, specialising in broadcasts from the Soviet Union. This article is reprinted from the Middle East International.

Strategic plateau — crux of Israel-Syria peace

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

QUNAITRA, SYRIA — Coils of barbed wire curl past the back door of the ruins cafe, the only business operating in this demolished town, whose destruction is preserved as Syria's monument to Israel's 24-year occupation of the Golan Heights.

Once a prosperous market town with a population of about 50,000 Qunaitra lies in a demilitarised zone. Israel captured most of the Golan in 1967, almost lost it in 1973 and annexed it in 1981.

The Golan Heights, a 1,176-square-kilometre chunk of volcanic plateau, will be one of the most fiercely contested factors in the Middle East peace conference scheduled to start Oct. 30 in Madrid.

Before the day's onslaught of Iranian tourists, a Ruins Cafe waiter spoke of how he might get back his grandfather's land, located over the barbed wire, if the conference succeeds.

"There will be concessions on this side, and concessions from the other side and then changes will take place..." he stated.

Ahmad Hariri, a guide from Syria's Ministry of Information, stepped in to help with the trans-

lation, saying: "It means Israel will give back the Golan to its owners, the Syrians."

Apart from the emotional loss, the Golan lies just 65 kilometres west of Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Qunaitra itself is a precedent for handing back territory. It was returned by Israel in June 1974 as part of the ceasefire agreement in the October 1973 war. Israel leveled most of it before handing it back.

In Damascus, Syrian officials are adamant that the Golan must be handed back.

"The Israelis have to leave the occupied territories. If there's no return, there will be no peace," a presidential advisor said repeatedly during a recent briefing.

Back at the Ruins Cafe, patron Mohammad Sulan indicates his family's land lies beyond the hill bristling with Israeli military antennae.

"They have their land, they have their religion, we recognise that... give us back our land and we can all live in peace," he said.

There is great unease on the Israeli side whether such sentiments are real.

The Ein Zivan kibbutz sits on the other side of the hill, about 10 kilometres west of where Salan

spoke. Only U.N. troops and a few students from Arab villages are allowed to cross directly.

Elin Zivan grows apples and makes plastic boots for export. The 200 residents say they would be prepared to abandon their settlement in what was once Syrian territory, but only if U.S. or U.N. peacekeeping troops were there to keep the Syrian army from moving back in.

Before 1967, the Golan Heights, just up as a solid wall from the Jordan River, put the whole Hula Valley below in range of Syrian artillery. Clashes were frequent.

"I talk about leaving all the time, but I don't really think of it as a reality," said Odaya Amron, 20, who grew up in Ein Zivan.

"It would not be like with Egypt. That's a comfortable peace because there's a very natural border there. Here, the Syrians would immediately be a threat."

Driving up through the mists off the Sea of Galilee, the hill created by the smell of eucalyptus waiting through the warm fall air is suddenly jolted by road signs pointing to a bomb shelter. Cars jostle for space with tank carriers. There are frequent memorial

"Families lost sons, brothers, husbands to win the Golan. They're going to ask for what the Golan's handed back," said Mr. Amron.

Some among the Golan's 11,000 Israeli residents consider the threat too great to give it back, and they plan to make it a political issue.

"If we give them the Golan because it used to be Arab, next they'll want Haifa — it was an Arab city — and Jaffa and Acre. And next thing you'll know it will be the diaspora again," said Kamnit Ehrenreiche, a marketing assistant at the Golan Heights wineries.

The northern Golan is home to about 18,000 Druze, an offshoot of Islam whose members are now divided among Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

They appear evenly split about who rules them.

"There's more work, more money here now. They don't have work in Syria," said Hani Al Qila, 73. "I'd be at peace if I could only see my son."

His son was 25, a Syrian soldier, when the 1967 war cut off Majd Al Shams village from Syria. He can only see him across the no-man's-land of barbed wire.

Demirel on top again

By Ayse Sarioglu
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey's old political warhorse Suleyman Demirel, six times prime minister and twice ousted by the army, is riding high again after a general election victory.

Unofficial returns showed his centre-right True Path Party (DYP) won 27.3 per cent of votes in Sunday's polls but was unlikely to get a clear majority of the 450 parliamentary seats.

His triumph will end eight years of rule by the centre-right Motherland Party, founded in 1983 by President Turgut Ozal, running second with 23.9 per cent support.

Voters have returned Demirel, 67, to power 11 years after he was unceremoniously toppled by a military coup in 1980.

But they have ensured he must try to form a coalition government, a prospect he has said he dreads.

"I beg you don't force me into coalition. I lose my sleep when I think of those days," he told campaign rallies, recalling the unstable pre-coup partnerships he had with ultra-rightwing and fundamentalist parties.

The politicians were unable to control the spiral of violence by rightwing and left-wing extremists in which 5,000 were killed before the coup.

The generals banned Mr. Demirel from politics for 10 years, but Turks voted by a narrow margin to lift the ban on him and other leading politicians in a 1987

referendum.

In 1971, the army, disturbed by rising political violence and economic problems, forced Mr. Demirel to resign as premier and replaced his cabinet with an appointed team of technocrats.

Born on November 1, 1924 to a farming family in the west Anatolian province of Isparta, Mr. Demirel trained as a civil engineer. He is married with no children. He speaks English, but rarely travels outside Turkey.

He first came to power in general elections held five years after a 1960 coup, at the head of the Justice Party, forerunner of the DYP. He inherited his mostly rural power base from the former Democrat Party, which had been banned by the military.

Portly and balding, Mr. Demirel has an undeniable earthy zest that captures crowds. Hailed as "father" by his supporters, his rivals say he is a master of political expediency.

Mr. Demirel's election campaign was largely built on promises of relief from inflation running at 67 per cent a year. He has pledged a 500-day stability programme to put the economy right.

The changing face of Turkey, stamped by Motherland's liberal economic policies since 1983, has led Mr. Demirel to recruit young, western-educated businessmen and economists to his entourage.

Since his fall in 1980, he has endured the demise of his Justice Party and brief military detention in western Turkey.

Health and welfare in Iraq after the Gulf crisis

The following report was compiled by an international team of experts who surveyed the impact of the Gulf crisis on the Iraqi population. The International Study Team was organised by graduates from Harvard University Schools of Law and Public Health, as well as from the London School of Economics, the University of Oxford and the University of Nijmegen. Major funders included the MacArthur Foundation, the John Merck Foundation, UNICEF and OXFAM (U.K.), among others.

By International Study Team

FROM Aug. 23 to Sept. 5, the International Study Team on the Gulf Crisis comprehensively surveyed the impact of the Gulf crisis on the health and welfare of the Iraqi population.

The team consisted of eight seven researchers drawn from a wide variety of disciplines, including agriculture, electrical engineering, environmental sciences, medicine, economics, child psychology, sociology, and public health.

Team members visited Iraq's thirty largest cities in all eighteen governorates, including rural areas on every part of the country. The mission was accomplished without Iraqi government's interference or supervision. Principal funding was supplied by UNICEF, the MacArthur Foundation, the John Merck Foundation, and Oxfam-U.K.

The study team has prepared separate in-depth reports on the Gulf crisis and its impact on Iraqi civilians focused on the following subjects:

- Child mortality and nutrition survey.
- Health facilities survey.
- Electrical facilities survey.
- Water and wastewater systems survey.
- Environmental and Agricultural survey.
- Income and economic survey.
- Child psychology survey.
- Women's survey.

This statement summarises the principal findings of the research. Individual project reports, representing the findings and views of individual authors, are available for more detailed information.

The economic and social disruption and destruction caused by the Gulf crisis has had a direct impact on the health conditions of the children in Iraq. Iraq desperately needs not only food and medicine, but also spare parts to repair basic infrastructure in electrical power generation, water purification, and sewage treatment. Unless Iraq quickly obtains food, medicine, and spare parts, millions of Iraqis will continue to experience malnutrition and disease. Children by the tens of thousands will remain in jeopardy. Thousands will die.

Child mortality and nutrition survey

Infant and child mortality and nutrition were assessed by conducting surveys in 9,034 households in every region of Iraq. The households were chosen on the basis of stratified random sampling techniques. The household survey was conducted by a team of 32 mostly female Arabic-speakers under the supervision of 10 public health specialists.

Within each household, mothers were questioned about the number of children born, the date of birth, whether the children were still alive, and, if deceased, the date of death. This is the standard method for obtaining accurate data on infant and child mortality.

Based on these interviews, it is

estimated that the mortality rate of children under five years of age is 380 per cent greater today than before the onset of the Gulf crisis.

The practice of public health specialists is to state infant and child mortality as a proportion of live births. Before the Gulf crisis, the mortality rate for children under five years of age was 27.8 deaths per thousand live births. Since the Gulf crisis, the under-five mortality rate has increased to 104.4 deaths per thousand live births.

Furthermore, it is estimated that the mortality rate of children under one year of age (the infant mortality rate) is 350 per cent greater than before the onset of the Gulf crisis.

During January to August 1990, before the Gulf crisis, the infant mortality rate was 22.7 deaths per thousand live births. Since the Gulf crisis, the infant mortality rate has increased 80.0 deaths per thousand live births.

The rise in infant and under-five mortality is likely to be due to a complex interaction of factors. There are acute shortages of food and essential medicines throughout Iraq. Lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitation have greatly increased water-borne diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and gastroenteritis.

A random sample of 2,902 children registered during the course of the household survey was also measured for their height and weight. These figures were combined with the children's ages in order to estimate the incidence of malnutrition among infants and children in Iraq. Nutritional status was assessed by looking at three different criteria: height for age, weight for age, and weight for height. According to internationally accepted practice, children were classified as malnourished if they fell two or more standard deviations below the median reference values of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Nearly 29 per cent of the children assessed were malnourished under one or more of these criteria. According to the WHO there are a total of 3.3 million children under five years of age in Iraq. Applying the 29 per cent figure to this total number leads us to estimate that over 900,000 Iraqi children are malnourished.

The third criterion used to assess child malnutrition, weight for height, is a measure of severe food deprivation or deficient utilisation. In a layperson's terms, a child who falls two or more standard deviations below the median value for weight for height is moderately or severely malnourished, with a significantly increased risk of dying. About 3.6 per cent of Iraqi children assessed were malnourished under this criterion. Applying this 3.6 per cent figure to Iraq's total population of children under five leads us to estimate that 118,000 children are either moderately or severely malnourished and therefore at increased risk of dying.

The incidence of severe malnutrition appears greatest among children between one and two years of age. For example, 5.3 per cent of these children measure two standard deviations or more below the median value for weight for height and therefore, are considered moderately or severely malnourished and at extreme risk. Moreover, over one-third of children of this age are malnourished according to one or more of the three criteria.

Heart facility survey

The study team included five health professionals (three medical doctors and two public health specialists), who visited 29 hospitals and 17 community health centres located in nearly all governorates of Iraq. At each hospital, they conducted ward prevalence studies of admitted patients, interviewed facility directors, department heads, and physicians, and analysed medical and hospital records of malnutrition and disease. The ward-based analysis concentrated on patients under the age of five.

Mortality for patients under five years of age varied dramatically throughout the country. For example, at Babel Pediatric Hospital, it has increased 3.9 times for the first seven months of 1991 while at Diwaniya, an increase of 1.2 fold was documented. The incidence of diseases was similarly uneven. With the improvement of Baghdad's water supply the risk of communicable diseases in Baghdad has substantially diminished in recent months, while in southern Iraq the morbidity pattern is substantially more acute and remains at epidemic or near-epidemic levels.

Within hospitals, infant and child malnutrition is clearly the most significant problem documented by the health facility team. Among in-patients at Erbil Pediatric Hospital, the prevalence of malnutrition, as an admitting diagnosis, was 71 per cent; at Sulaymaniyah, 66 per cent; at Mosul, 66 per cent; and at Ramadi Pediatric Hospital, 61 per cent. Food shortages and frequent gastroenteritis appear to have contributed to a very high

level of malnutrition. This is reflected in the large increase in low birth weight babies. As an example, in Kut, low birth weight babies represent 30-50 per cent of all live births compared to 12-14 per cent in 1990. The cost of infant formula on the open market has increased 2,000-3,000 per cent since Aug. 1990.

In addition, water-borne diseases, including typhoid, gastroenteritis, and cholera are epidemic. Hepatitis has increased throughout Iraq and by as much as one hundred-fold in some areas. Meningitis is now widespread in southern Iraq. With the damage to child vaccination programmes, such preventable diseases as measles and polio are also resurgent.

Strained health facilities operate at only a fraction of pre-crisis levels. Most lack even basic medical supplies such as vaccines, antibiotics, anesthetics and syringes.

Medicines are in extremely short supply. As a result, infectious diseases go untreated. There is little or no chloramphenicol for typhoid, fluids for rehydration of those suffering from cholera for gastroenteritis, or antibiotics for meningitis. Lack of vaccines and poor sanitary conditions have resulted in outbreaks or previously uncommon and preventable childhood diseases, such as polio, measles, and tetanus.

Drugs for chronic diseases are also unavailable. The rate of coronary attacks has increased substantially because patients with heart diseases are unable to obtain anti-angina medication. Teenage diabetics are dying because they cannot obtain insulin. Children with treatable leukemia are dying because anti-cancer drugs are largely non-existent. Laboratories, X-ray units, neonatal units, and operating theatres either do not function or provide only limited services.

Due to lack of water and detergent, sanitation was poor in nearly every hospital visited. The supply of water to most hospitals and health centres is sporadic. In a bacteriological survey conducted in southern Iraq, 30 per cent of

hospital water sources were grossly polluted with coliform indicating fecal contamination. In Kurdish areas, tested water supplies of hospitals found heavy coliform pollution. Moreover, the water that is supplied is often contaminated with fecal matter. Lavatories are clogged. At several hospitals, raw sewage had backed up into the wards.

Electrical facility survey

The project surveyed the conditions of most major electrical facilities in Iraq. The sites were selected by team members to gain a comprehensive picture of conditions throughout the country. The study was comprised of site inspections and interviews at 24 facilities over a ten-day period.

During the Gulf crisis, enormous damage was inflicted upon the electrical generation infrastructure of Iraq. Since the ceasefire, electrical generation has been restored to about 68 per cent of the 1990 peak load (5,162 MW) but, to only 37 per cent of the installed capacity (35 MW). The study estimates 75 per cent of electrical transmission lines are operable. All repairs have been done using salvaged parts and improvised methods.

Much of this repair, especially in the switchyards and first-span connections to transmission, does not meet normal standards of construction, poses increased safety risks, and is likely to break down. Without spare parts, replacement and further repair will not be possible. The store of salvageable parts is depleted. Iraq does not have the capability to manufacture the necessary items. Many are specific to the foreign companies from Europe, Japan, and North America that built or supplied all the power stations.

Finally, the study team documented the profoundly negative impact that the damaged and ill-repaired power generation system has had on, and will continue to have on, water purification and wastewater treatment and public health infrastructure generally.

Water and wastewater systems survey

Civil and chemical engineers, inspected water and wastewater treatment plants, distribution systems, and collection systems in all parts of Iraq. Twenty-eight facilities, including eighteen water treatment plants, eight wastewater treatment plants, one water supply and one aluminum sulfate plant were visited in thirteen cities.

Much of Iraq's water and water purification facilities function at only a fraction of pre-Gulf crisis levels or not at all. Only one of eighteen water treatment plants inspected operated at 100 per cent capacity. Water distribution and purification suffer from minimal flow and lack of chlorine which is being rationed at all plants. The primary factors impairing water treatment and purification do not result from damage caused by the war and civil uprisings, but from a lack of spare parts and chlorine. Wastewater treatment, water delivery and purification are also substantially limited by the lack of electrical power.

Reduced water flows and insufficient levels of chlorine in the distribution system promote the incidence of water-borne diseases. The lack of electrical power has eliminated wastewater treatment in Baghdad and southern Iraq and raw sewage is being discharged into waterways. Sewage treatment is also dramatically reduced because of a lack of chlorine, spare parts and reliable

electrical power. The study team estimates that if current trends continue, the entire water treatment and delivery system will deteriorate to the point of collapse. Within a matter of months, those critical public services are expected to be operating at only 5-10 per cent capacity.

Environment and agricultural survey

Environmental and chemical engineers investigated and interviewed public health officials, environmental regulators and local residents concerning the environmental and public health consequences of the Gulf crisis.

Team members collected drinking water samples at 158 randomly selected households in all 18 governorates in Iraq. The sampling framework of the public health survey team was used to collect drinking water samples.

Most of Iraq's population of 18 million is directly exposed to water-borne diseases in their potable water supply. Each sample was tested for coliform or fecal contamination. The results were 106 positive for gross coliform contamination, 25 confirmed negative, and 27 unconfirmed negative. Roughly half the areas tested, weighted according to population density, showed positive evidence of gross fecal contamination. Only in Baghdad, where coliform media sampling was used, did over half the samples test negative. Team members documented unsanitary water source and waste disposal

conditions in all cities surveyed. Common conditions observed included: (1) solid waste accumulating in the streets due to the lack of collection and landfilling equipment, (2) raw sewage overflows in the streets and around homes, (3) raw sewage being dumped directly into the rivers due to impaired or inoperable wastewater treatment plants, (4) children bathing and playing in these rivers (5) people with little to no tap water supply because impaired or inoperable water treatment and distribution plants cannot generate adequate line pressure, (6) people drawing drinking water directly from the rivers, and (7) people drawing drinking water from holes dug in water mains, which are often contaminated by cross-connections from adjacent sewage pipes.

The team found that direct sewage contamination of water supplies results from two primary causes: inadequate chlorinating of discharges or bypassing treatment entirely; and contamination through breaks in the water mains.

Over 60 per cent of the population in five of the seven governorates surveyed no longer have tap water available in their homes because of low water supply system pressure. The low pressure is caused by lack of spare parts to maintain pumps, power outages, and breaks in the water mains.

Income and economic survey

Two economist members of the team studied the impact of the

(Continued on page 7)

Under Royal Patronage

The opening of a new tourist project in Aqaba at a cost of

JD 1.2 million

Simon Khoury:

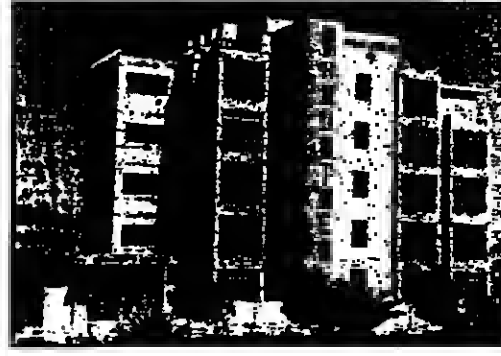
Aquamarina 3 is a new leap for Petra International Hotels Co.

By Ahmad Al Khamash

AQABA — Under the Royal Patronage, the Aquamarina 3 hotel in Aqaba will be officially opened on Wednesday (today) evening. The General Manager of the Aquamarina Hotels Mr. Simon Khoury said that it was no coincidence that the opening ceremony of Aquamarina 3 came at the beginning of the current tourism season in Aqaba. He added that the project came about after intensive studies and contacts with international tourism companies in France, Britain and other European countries. All of which had sent representatives who visited the hotel and expressed their admiration of its modern and luxurious facilities. Mr. Khoury said that these companies have confirmed their bookings for this and upcoming season.

The JD 1.2 million project in Aqaba will be followed by other pioneering projects to be undertaken by Petra International Hotels Co. The next project will be built in the historic city of Petra, Mr. Khoury said.

The Aquamarina 3, which is located on the Ring Road of Manara in the centre of Aqaba, is a six-storey hotel with 55 rooms accommodating 120 beds all of which are equipped with luxury furniture and facilities making it possible to offer excellent service to the hotel's clients. The hotel has a swimming pool and a restaurant located on the six floor overlooking the sea and the city. The restaurant can cater for 80 people at once. The hotel is also served by a round-the-clock shuttle bus to take clients to Aquamarina 1, which is 10 minutes away, where they can enjoy the sea, sun and sand in addition to sea trips and water sports like sea surfing and scuba diving. Attending the opening ceremony were representatives of number of local and international companies, tourist operators and international airlines including Royal Jordanian, in addition to local officials.



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Jordan Times

Poor form and English fans worry Benfica

LONDON (R) — Portuguese champions Benfica are nervous about their own form and the influx of English soccer fans as they prepare to host Arsenal in the European Cup Wednesday.

Benfica's recent poor showing — they drew 1-1 with bottom-of-the-table Farense at the weekend — has filled the side with gloom.

"Everyone sees the team is not doing too well," said Striker Rui Aguas who will be back for the second round, first leg match after several weeks' absence with injury.

"Benfica have to play better than they have recently if they want to beat Arsenal," he said.

But Arsenal Manager George Graham is not taken in by Benfica's league performance.

"I've had Benfica watched three times since the draw was made and the indications are they are saving their best for the European Cup," he said.

The stain of the 1985 Heysel disaster still marks English clubs and Benfica are laying on extra security for the arrival in Lisbon of an expected 1,000 fans.

Most will arrive on special charter flights only two hours before kick-off at Benfica's 120,000-seater stadium of light and will be driven back to the airport immediately after the match.

Barcelona, like Benfica, have found it hard to sparkle in league matches lately but they were full of bravado ahead of their Euro-

pean Cup encounter with Kaiserslautern.

"I've seen Kaiserslautern play a few times in Bulgaria and frankly I haven't been that impressed," said the Spanish side's Bulgarian striker Kristo Stoichkov.

But Atletico Madrid were openly worried about their Cup Winners' Cup tie against English first division leaders Manchester United, unbeaten in 12 league matches.

"We're both afraid of each other," he said. "I don't know the best way to go about it to get a good result. Do I make sure we don't lose a goal or go out to try to score one?"

United manager Alex Ferguson was awaiting the results of fitness tests Tuesday on defenders Paul Parker, who has missed nine matches with a hamstring injury, and Mike Phelan, out for two games after damaging his ribs.

Ferguson was still trying to decide the best plan against Atletico, who have won their last six league matches.

"It will be our toughest test so far," he said. "I don't know the best way to go about it to get a good result. Do I make sure we don't lose a goal or go out to try to score one?"

Marseille are hoping captain and striker Jean-Pierre Papin will have recovered from Saturday's beer bottle incident and can play in their home European Cup match with Sparta Prague.

Papin, who suffered mild con-

cussion when he was struck by a bottle thrown by a fan before a match in St. Etienne, has trained but has not headed a ball since the incident.

"I still have a headache but I hope everything will be fine by Wednesday," he said.

Auxerre welcome back midfielder Jean-Marc Ferreri, after a calf problem, against injury-hit Liverpool in the UEFA Cup but young left back Stephane Mahe is doubtful with a groin strain.

Italian champions Sampdoria, who meet Honved Budapest in Hungary in the European Cup, will be desperately hoping to shake off a recent run of poor form.

Sampdoria have lost three of their last seven league games, going down 2-0 at home to unfancied Atlanta Sunday.

Belgian side Brugge have had to travel to face Katowice, the only Polish side left in European competition, without Dutch star striker Foeke Booy for their Cup Winners' Cup tie.

Booy, who has scored 12 league goals this season, injured his knee in a league match 10 days ago.

Dynamo Kiev, the defending Soviet champions, had the worst possible preparation at the weekend for their European Cup tie against Borussia.

They lost their mathematical chance of taking second place in this year's league by losing 1-0 at home to improving Chernomorets Odessa.

New date for Holyfield-Tyson heavyweight title fight uncertain

NEW YORK (AP) — Evander Holyfield could defend the heavyweight title against Mike Tyson in January, February or March — or not at all.

"This is not a typical postponement situation because Indianapolis has to be reckoned with," said Seth Abraham, president of Time Warner Sports, whose TVKO is to handle the pay-per-view and closed-circuit telecast of the fight.

The match was set for Nov. 8 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas but was postponed Friday because of a rib injury to Tyson, who is scheduled to go on trial on rape and related charges on Jan. 27 at Indianapolis.

Regarding a new date for the fight, promoter Dan Duva said Monday there are two choices.

"One, schedule the fight in January and wait until another motion is heard to reschedule the trial," he said.

Duva's second option is to "wait until after the trial and take a chance the fight will never happen."

Should the trial be pushed back, then the fight could be pushed back to February or March. If that happens, then Holyfield would have a fight before meeting Tyson. This would



Evander Holyfield

be an added risk because of the possibility of injury or an upset.

A request for a trial filed Oct. 9 was denied Friday by Judge Patricia J. Gifford of Marion County Superior Court in Indianapolis.

Should the fight be held before Jan. 27, then it would be either Friday, Jan. 10 or Friday, Jan. 17, according to Duva.

"There are problems with January," Duva said.

Senna triumph marred by verbal attack

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Ayrton Senna left the Japanese Grand Prix facing possible disciplinary action after a blistering attack on former FISA President Jean-Marie Balestre.

The 31-year-old Brazilian, who finished second behind his McLaren team-mate Gerhard Berger in the race Sunday to win his third world drivers' title, stunned the sport with his revelations and his language.

He left new FISA President Max Mosley having to decide whether to discipline the triple world champion only two weeks after ousting Balestre from power.

Senna accused Balestre at a post-race news conference of robbing him of victory in Japan in 1989 to give Frenchman Alain Prost the title and of waging a "stupid" war through the winter of 1989-90.

In addition, he accused Balestre of cheating him out of the correct pole position in the 1990 Japanese Grand Prix.

Senna said Balestre was the main reason why he deliberately drove Prost off the track at the first corner of last year's race to take the title.

Senna made his allegations in remarks littered with so many swear words there is little doubt that he could face charges for bringing Grand Prix racing into disrepute.

The problem facing Briton Mosley, whom Senna warmly welcomed as the new FISA president, is what action to take against the Brazilian, whose performance on and off the track Sunday smacked of unprecedented arrogance.



Ayrton Senna

The most alarming of Senna's claims was that he drove into Prost last year knowing there would be an accident and he would win the 1990 championship.

This was something Senna vehemently denied last year, but confirmed as true Sunday.

He said: "I did the right thing when we crashed at the first corner when Prost turned to cut across me. He pushed me out and I knew I had to go for it even if there was an accident. I did not care."

"In 1989 I was badly robbed by the system and that is something I will never forget. But in 1990, it went the other way. It was a sad

championship. But it was a result of the 1989 championship and of the politics."

For many, this was merely confirmation of what they eyes had seen the previous year.

Before leaving Suzuka Sunday night, Prost — who is seriously mulling over his future in Formula One — shrugged aside the new furor when he said: "You do not have to tell me what happened. I was there in the car."

"We all know what happened that day. But nothing was done and nothing can be done about it now. I still feel I would have won that race and had a chance for the championship. But you have to forget about these things and rise above them."

"They are best left in the past." The Frenchman confirmed that he and Senna had discussed their Suzuka crashes when they met at the Hungarian Grand Prix this year to find a way of competing without racism.

Unlike Prost, Senna has clearly found it impossible to forget, as he admitted when he recalled, "I still remember the crash, which led to his disqualification. 'What happened in 1989 was unforgivable and I still struggle to live with it,'" said Senna.

The result of the Japan Grand Prix left Senna winning the World Drivers' Championship with 91 points. His closest rival, Briton Nigel Mansell, who spun his Williams off the track after nine laps, has 69.

But the Constructors' World Championship remained open with McLaren in front with 132 points compared with Williams' total of 121 and only one more race to come, in Australia, at Adelaide on Nov. 3.

Atlanta, down 2-0, still likes chances in series

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Braves still like their chances in the World Series. After all, they're back in the land of natural grass and tomahawk chops, and they have two of baseball's hottest pitchers ready to face the Minnesota Twins in games 3 and 4.

The Twins won the first two games of the best-of-7 series at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, 5-2 on Saturday and 3-2 on Sunday. The Braves took a day off Monday after returning to Atlanta, while the Twins worked out at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium.

"It's not a good situation to be in, but we have had our backs up against the wall all season and have come out on top," said Braves first baseman Sid Bream.

"It is a pretty good feeling going back to Atlanta having Avery and Smoltz going for us in the next two games."

Steve Avery, who won two games and didn't give up a run in 16 1-3 innings in the National League playoffs against Pittsburgh, will pitch Tuesday night when the series resumes. John Smoltz will start Wednesday night.

The 21-year-old Avery, 18-8 during the regular season, has not lost since August.

Neither has Smoltz, who pitched the NL West clincher against Houston as well as Game 7

against the Pirates. He went 12-2 the second half of the season to finish 14-13.

"It's obvious we're in a good position," said Twins catcher Brian Harper. "But now we have to face Avery and Smoltz. It could easily be tied up."

Smoltz likes that idea.

"We just have to prove everybody wrong again and go out and win," he said. "We understand what we have to do, and we've learned how to win big games. And we have some big games coming up."

The pitching during postseason play hasn't been the problem for Atlanta, however. It's been the lack of hitting.

In the seven games against Pittsburgh, the Braves batted only .231 and scored 19 runs. For far against the Twins, the team is hitting .226 with four runs in two games.

Terry Pendleton, the NL's leading hitter with a .319 average during the regular season, hit only .167 against the Pirates and was 0-for-6 against the Twins before getting two hits Sunday night.

Leadoff hitter Lonnie Smith is 0-for-6 against Minnesota, and Bream is 1-for-8. David Justice is 2-for-6, but hasn't driven in a run. Ron Gant is hitting .500 with four hits, but failed to produce in the clutch Sunday night.

Kirkstein edges Pimek Stockholm open

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Aaron Kirkstein edged Libor Pimek Monday in a tight third-set tiebreaker to squeeze into the second round of the \$1.1 million Stockholm Open Tennis Tournament.

Kirkstein, the only American winner during the first day's action at the globe arena, prevailed 6-2, 2-6, 7-6.

Kirkstein capitalized on two late double-faults by the Czechoslovakian-born Pimek to take the tiebreak 8-6.

"I was fortunate enough to pull it out," Kirkstein said. "A match like that can go either way. I'm happy to get by this first round."

Pimek, a Belgian national who had to qualify to get into the main draw, double faulted for the first time in the tiebreak at 4-4. Another double-fault at 6-7 gave Kirkstein the match.

Next up for Kirkstein is Michael Stich, the German Wimbledon champion and winner of Sunday's ATP tournament in Vienna, Austria.

"It's going to be a tough match," said Kirkstein, who is ranked 47th in the world.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ ♠K93 ♠784 ♠AQ106
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With 19 points and a balanced hand, it's very tempting to jump to two no trump. However, that could lead to missing a superior game when your side has a 4-4 heart fit. Rebid one heart. If partner passes, we doubt whether we have the combined values for game.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K105 ♠AJ6 ♠AS ♠AQJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Partner's bid is forcing. However, don't play the same song again by bidding three no trump—you have already described a balanced 19 points. Tell partner of your three-card support by bidding three spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q10873 ♠85 ♠AQ109 ♠83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Admittedly you don't have much of a hand, but you don't win at bridge by letting the opponents play undisturbed at the one-level. Partner might have been forced to pass with a good hand because his major-suit holdings include length in hearts, but not in spades. Bid one

spade. Since you didn't double, partner won't play you for a good hand.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J94 ♠K87 ♠652 ♠QJ72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's jump shift is a game force and shows an unbalanced hand. Therefore, don't bid three no trump. Take a preference to three spades. On this sequence even diamond four-card majorities must have at least five spades.

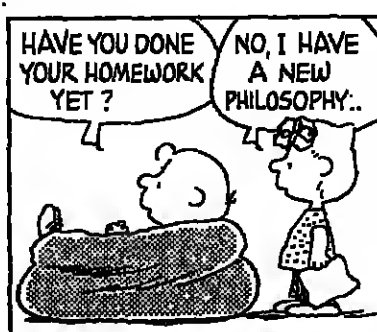
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♠3 ♠Q109762 ♠KJ652
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—In the Land of Oz you could double and everyone would pass. In real life, however, after you double either your partner or West is not likely to sit for it. Since you are not likely to beat either act, pass and hope for the best.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A ♠Vvoid ♠AK9785
♠AKJ1074
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—We would be prepared to play slam in whichever minor suit partner has length. The easiest way to accomplish that is to jump to six clubs now, asking partner for preference.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Aries on this first day of Scorpio will make it possible for you to get down to the gritty-gritty of any financial or business plan and bring security to your lap.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A private advisor shows how to get the better of present conditions by not noticing the strange actions of a member of your own family but to rise above his antics.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your interest in getting ahead with everyday routines and tasks is strong but you need to consult with a good friend for the best way to handle some present obligations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you find that you have all kinds of financial problems and the only real way to solve them is to take a bigging into your confidence and follow his advice.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you are eager to show that you are the one who does value the good will of a newcomer or one of different ideas from your own.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Secret concerns are certainly likely to be yours and only by meticulously carrying through with your obligations will you be able to rise above and be successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A partner see things straight and gives you the most valuable of

advice so don't think you can rely on a scatter-brained friend or your own intuition now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There are a number of worldly problems facing you but stop sitting around brooding them or asking advice from everyone and tackle them yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is that moment when a smile or some simple enjoyment extended to one who thinks differently from you seems to be the only way to handle intelligently.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now are able to find the many outlets by which you can gain answers by applying to a better awareness of family needs and desires.

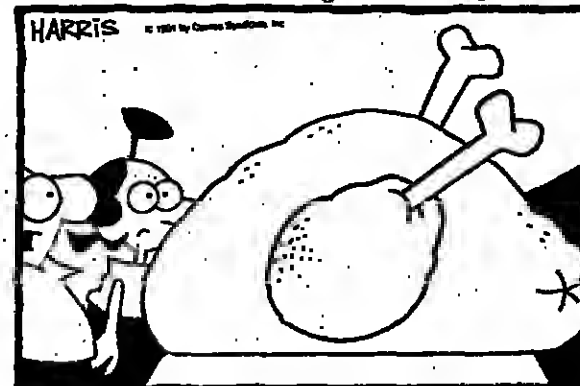
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talking out a partnership problems with a usual ally gives you a better awareness of the other side of the picture which you've been too close to see right-ly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have every kind of chance to have a very happy day if you avoid dawdling about and enjoy the amusements and events that delight you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own judgment is good and you can do much that you personally want to do so ignore the surrounding media and concentrate on gaining own ambitions.

THE BETTER HALF.

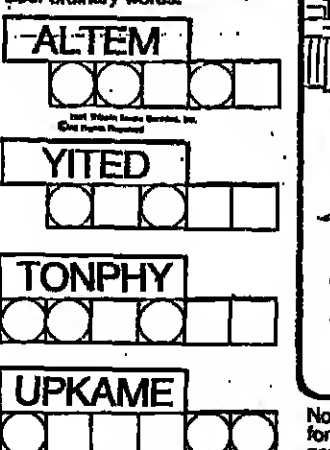
By Harris



"I don't know what kind of bird it is. At 29 cents a pound, who cares?"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



ANSWER: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARDOR DAUNT THROAT SICKEN

Answer: The closer a man is, the more his friends are this—DISTANT

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth Witte

ACROSS

- Name of two US presidents
- Activity
- 10 Family man
- 14 Moroccan city
- 15 ———
- 16 Sale condition
- 17 Football great, Gray
- 20 Discharge
- 21 Feasible-minded
- 22 Prescription
- 23 ———
- 24 Small fish
- 25 Implant
- 26 Mouthful
- 28 Violin for short
- 34 Face the pitcher
- 36 Dreaming sign
- 37 Date
- 38 Mild cigar
- 40 Glass sheet
- 41 ———
- 42 Ties to court
- 43 Joyce Carol
- 44 Ballplayer
- 46 "Supreme"
- 48 Clerk of "Hear"
- 50 Cell it is
- 51 Up and about
- 53 Clear group
- 55 Get a little exercise
- 56 Exercise
- 57 Facilitate
- 58 "Deliver"
- 59 meterless
- 60 Some actors
- 61 Gave the once
- 62 ———
- 63 Site of 1945 conference
- DOWN
- 1 Snow
- 2 Patriotic gp.
- 3 Sleeveless robe
- 4 Intricate network
- 5 Preserved
- 6 Hunter's sib
- 7 Falls behind
- 8 Tax gp.
- 9 "——", "humburg"
- 10 Conditional release
- 11 Unwillingly abet
- 12 Ancient Briton
- 13 Puffed
- 14 Pot tips
- 15 Horace
- 16 Puccini opera
- 17 Altogether
- 18 "The Picture of ———"
- 19 Gray
- 20 Ruler
- 21 Frontages
- 22 Thatched river
- 23 Embarrass
- 24 Resaped
- 25 Meddlesome root
- 26 Discarded
- 27 18th
- 28 Not as much
- 29 Joy for one
- 30 Horse sound
- 31 Extended
- 32 wandering
- 33 Bay windows
- 34 Took out the window
- 35 Prostate
- 36 Author Sholem
- 37 Portico
- 38 Tale a little off
- 39 Metal
- 40 A Fitzgerald
- 41 Feasting grade
- 42 Fodder
- 43 Pipe joint
- 44 Octave in
- 45 Vest expense

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.7775	1.7750
Deutsche Mark	1.6920	1.6934
Swiss Franc	1.4823	1.4834
French Franc	5.7720	5.7825
Japanese Yen	130.75	131.45
European Currency Unit	1.2090	1.2087

USD Per STG
* London Close, @ 8:00 a.m. GMT
Barren/Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.43	5.37	5.62
Sterling Pound	10.51	10.51	10.25	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.31	9.37	9.57
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.25	8.18	8.06
French Franc	8.95	9.12	9.18	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.46	6.21	5.50	5.59
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.68	9.75	9.75

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.
Previous Month: 22/10/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	363.25	7.10	Silver	4.77	0.093

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 22/10/1991

Currency	Rate	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
Sterling Pound	1.7799	1.7818
Deutsche Mark	0.4048	0.4068
Swiss Franc	0.4623	0.4646
French Franc	0.1186	0.1192
Japanese Yen	0.523	0.5256
Dutch Guilder	0.3592	0.361
Swedish Krona	0.1111	0.1117
Italian Lira	0.0541	0.0544
Belgian Franc	0.01966	0.01976

Other Currencies

Other Currencies
Date: 22/10/1991

Currency	Rate	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7890	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.0774	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1662	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1870
Greek Drachma	0.3640	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4510	1.4750

CAM Indices for Amman Financial Markets

CAM Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	20/10/1991 Close	21/10/1991 Close
All-Share	123.92	123.82
Banking Sector	104.42	104.77
Insurance Sector	125.82	125.03
Industry Sector	153.41	152.70
Services Sector	133.06	132.71

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7110/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1268/73	Canadian dollar
	1.6967/77	Deutschmarks
	1.9090/9100	Dutch guilders
	1.4855/65	Swiss francs
	34.90/94	Belgian francs
	5.7850/7900	French francs
	1269/1270	Italian lire
	131.30/40	Japanese yen
	6.1775/25	Swedish crowns
	6.6450/6500	Norwegian crowns
	6.5570/5620	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	362.75/363.25	U.S. dollars

Millions of Italians stage general strike

ROME (R) — Millions of Italians stopped work for four hours Tuesday in a general strike aimed at forcing Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti to scrap his 1992 cost-cutting plans.

Mass demonstrations took place in major cities and public transport ground to a halt in defiance of last-minute government appeals to call off the strike.

Some essential services were hit, although unions representing health workers and firefighters limited their protest to one hour.

Schools and banks were closed, many for the day, and dozens of local and international flights were postponed or cancelled. Milan's stock exchange opened one hour late.

"We aim to get these measures thrown out completely, not just watered down," said Giorgio Benvenuto, secretary general of the UIL, one of Italy's three major union groupings.

The three, accounting for some 14 million workers, are bitterly opposed to Mr. Andreotti's 1992 budget plan which they say is unjust and unrealistic.

The government aims to raise health care costs and cap public sector wage rises next year in a bid to contain a huge budget deficit and keep Italy's economy afloat of its European Community partners.

The unions last Saturday turned down an appeal by Mr. Andreotti to call off their action.

Tuesday's strike was the first all-out stoppage in Italy since May 1989 when a wave of protests, also against new health

charges, contributed to the collapse of then prime minister Ciriaco de Mita's coalition.

No early union estimate of strike turnout was available, but in Milan a spokesman for Fiat, Italy's largest private company with a workforce of 116,000, said numbers taking part were low by previous standards.

"Italy used to be a high-striking country but this is a relatively low turnout for a general strike," he added.

The budget package is currently before parliament, which has until the end of the year to approve it.

The bill aims to save some 60 trillion lire (\$55 billion) and keep the budget deficit down to around this year's expected level of 128 trillion lire (\$116 billion) through a combination of spending cuts, extra tax revenue and sales of state industrial holdings.

Mr. Andreotti has already angered the unions by trying to scale back Italy's generous pension system by raising retirement ages for state employees and increasing their pension contributions.

The unions are also under attack in long-running contract talks with employers who want to abolish the "scala mobile" system of wage indexation.

Much of the generous social legislation now costing so dear was extracted by the unions in the late 1960s and 1970s when they were at the height of their power following the wave of unrest which swept Europe from 1968.

Pakistan freezes assets of cooperatives' directors

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Punjab has frozen the personal assets of 113 directors and sponsors of financial cooperatives involved in a multi-million dollar scandal.

The order affects directors of 47 financial cooperatives, many owned by members of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

The property of those owing large sums to the cooperatives was frozen to ensure repayments, an official statement said.

Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said that 20 billion rupees (\$815 million) in deposits had been lost when several cooperatives collapsed earlier this year.

The affair has rocked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government, with ministers defending their financial probity in the face of stinging opposition attacks in parliament.

Benazir Bhutto has seized on the scandal to attack Mr. Sharif and his ruling party colleagues over what she calls South Asia's "biggest bank robbery."

She has repeatedly demanded the resignation of Mr. Sharif and the Interior Minister because their industrial empires had taken huge loans from the cooperatives.

Mr. Hussain told the national assembly Monday that all 650 million rupees (\$26.5 million) loaned to Mr. Sharif's Ittefaq Group and his own family business had been returned.

Health and welfare in Iraq

(Continued from page 5)

Gulf crisis on economic activity, private incomes, public distribution and household consumption.

More than a year of war and internal conflicts have had a disastrous impact on the economy. The destruction of the economic infrastructure and acute shortage of imported inputs have caused a considerable decline of output and wage employment (especially in the private sector). The reduction of formal employment opportunities, and the general impoverishment of the population, have led to a large-scale expansion of "informal" self-employment (e.g. street-vending).

Overall, money earnings have remained more or less unchanged for the majority of the population since August 1990. Over the same period, consumer prices have sharply increased, due to trade restriction, exchange-rate depreciation and reductions in subsidies. The food price index has risen by 1,500 to 2,000 per cent.

Correspondingly, real earnings have fallen to less than 7 per cent of their pre-crisis level, in terms of purchasing power over food. In terms of private incomes, the incidence of poverty is now greater in Iraq than in, say India. The collapse of private incomes has been further aggravated by the deterioration of many basic public services.

These adverse developments have been partly compensated by the expansion of public food distribution system, which covers all residents (except in areas not currently administered by the government, particularly the north), is equitable and efficient. However, food distribution covers at best one half of the nutritional needs of the population. Many households have to sell their assets to complement food rations with market purchases.

The paralysis of economic activity and basic public services, in adequately compensated by food rationing, has been one of the major causes of nutritional deprivation and enhanced mortality.

Child psychology survey

On the basis of in-depth interviews of 214 Iraqi children of primary school age, two professional child psychologists report levels of anxiety, stress, and pathological behaviour unprecedented in their fifteen year

experience in this field. For example, nearly two-thirds of children interviewed believe that they will not survive to become adults. Nearly 80 per cent are afraid of losing their family through death or separation. Eight per cent experienced shelling at close distance. The researchers conclude that "the high proportion of affected children clearly calls for a substantial national and international response to provide the necessary technical, professional, and educational means... to help these affected children."

Women's survey

A report on the state of women was compiled by three researchers who conducted in-depth interviews with eight Iraqi women.

The collapsed Iraqi economy has driven many families to poverty. Due to the sanctions and the damaged water and electricity infrastructure, as well as fuel and food shortages, 80 per cent of women interviewed described a situation where the burden of their domestic responsibilities had increased significantly. Fifty seven per cent of the women reported suffering from health problems. The Iraqi people, especially the women, are overwhelmed by their daily struggle to provide for their children even the most basic needs of food and water. Many women are forced to sell their jewellery and other household assets to raise money to buy food for their children. The crisis is worst in the case of vulnerable groups, such as widows, who do not have any personal assets to sell for food and other basic necessities.

Australian livestock sales to Jordan rise dramatically

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The liberalisation of Jordanian regulations for livestock imports coupled with instability in eastern Europe in the last two years have pushed Australia as the major source for live sheep for Jordanian importers. As a result, Australia's exports to Jordan has shot up dramatically, and possibilities of reciprocal Jordanian exports are being explored so that the heavy balance of trade in favour of Australia could be addressed.

Australian exports to Jordan are expected to reach 30 million Australian dollars (around \$24 million) this year, growing from 6.79 million dollars in 1989 and 23.89 million in 1990.

Australia imported Jordanian products — mostly phosphates and fertilisers — worth 3.7 million dollars in 1990, and is expected to register a higher volume in 1991 if ongoing discussions between Australian importers and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company bear fruit, according to Ambassador Paul Bowker.

Australian exports to Jordan include certain inorganic chemicals and halogen salts for use in the phosphate processing industry. The Kingdom ranks as Australia's sixty-ninth largest export market and eighty-first largest import supplier.

Mr. Bowker, who estimates that Australia would export 600,000 to 800,000 heads of sheep to Jordan this year, believes that there is still room for increase since Jordan's total consumption of sheep of the type offered by his country is between one million and 1.2 million.

More importantly, he added, Australia, which has developed advanced methods and techniques in breeding livestock, enjoys a sharp competitive edge.

Australia stepped in to fill in the slot in sources for sheep for

Jordan when imports became unreliable with political turmoil plaguing the Kingdom's traditional exporters in eastern Europe in 1989 and 1990. And Mr. Bowker expects his country to retain its leading role for some time to come.

Eastern Europe had the edge in freight costs as well as an advantage in timing of delivery of meat to Jordan in line with the parameters laid down by the Kingdom's government. But, with the focus shifting to live animals, rather than "chilled" meat, Australia is in a better position to meet Jordan's needs, the ambassador said.

However, he added, Australia is not planning to monopolise the Jordanian market. On the contrary, he said, the Australian government is offering assistance to upgrade Jordanian livestock industry and increase output through improved breeding and grazing methods.

With the abolition of import restrictions on import of meat and livestock by the Jordanian government in 1990, the private sector has taken over the trade, with half a dozen leading importers focusing on the Australian source.

Things have been relatively quiet in the area of animal diseases hitting Australian sheep exports after a furor in 1989 when some of the Gulf states banned Australian sheep saying they were unfit for human consumption. Exports have been resumed since then after the issue was straightened out.

"We now export more than six million heads of sheep to the Gulf states," Mr. Bowker said, pointing out that the concerned international organisation has given a clean bill of health to Australian sheep in two major categories of diseases. The third and last category of diseases is worldwide, and checks are conducted at random at shipping and receiving points. Jordan follows a policy of non-



Paul Bowker

acceptance of live animals rejected by any other country, and "we respect the Jordanian position," the ambassador said.

Mr. Bowker believes that better unloading facilities at Aqaba could help Jordanian importers of sheep to cut costs by eliminating the need for vessels to remain docked at the port for any extended period of time. He said Australian experts had been studying the "bottlenecks" in the import, health inspection, quarantine and transportation process and had drawn up certain recommendations.

At present, importers take delivery of sheep unloaded at Aqaba following health inspections aboard the vessel and sell them to wholesalers following the required quarantine period. Government slaughterhouses offer free of cost slaughter of the animals and then the meat is sold to retailers. Each carcass generally weighs between 20 and 25 kilograms.

According to Mr. Bowker, prospects are good for developing related industries such as facilities to process feed for the animals. Another possibility is to set up plants which can process the animals hide into finished products.

The ambassador said discussions were continuing on such possibilities, including joint ventures. He did not give details.

South Korea to probe lavish overseas spending by credit card

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, which has proclaimed 1992 "visit Korea year" to lure free-spending foreign tourists, is checking credit card records to make sure its own citizens leave their money at home.

The Bank of Korea, the central bank, has ordered South Korea's 21 credit card companies to submit magnetic tape recording overseas use from May to August, a bank official has said.

The checks are the latest salvo against extravagance and excessive consumption in a government-sanctioned austerity campaign that has annoyed South Korea's trading partners, who say it is aimed at curbing imports.

The government has also tightened customs checks at airports and threatened tax audits of big overseas spenders.

Government officials deny they are trying to curb imports and assert the "new lifestyle, new order" campaign is merely aimed at re-instilling traditional values of thrift.

But the campaign has been launched as South Korea struggles with a nagging trade deficit

exceeding \$10 billion so far this year, and officials worry about a so-called tourism gap — South Koreans spending more overseas than foreign visitors spending in South Korea.

The credit card tapes contain the user's name, card number and the amount charged. Government officials have given warning that such checks would be made to curb spending abroad in excess of foreign exchange control limits.

Those limits, basically \$3,000 a person, have been widely evaded by South Koreans using multiple credit cards.

"This doesn't aim to crack down on overseas travel but to cross-check spendings by a person holding more than two credit cards," the bank spokesman said by telephone.

"If we find any cases of consumers exceeding the limit, they will be charged in accordance with our regulations," he pointed out.

It is the first time the government has launched an overall investigation into the use of credit cards.

At present South Korea has no system to monitor spending by consumers holding different credit cards.

But the card companies, under government pressure, have agreed to install a unified computer system to track free-spenders by 1992.

South Koreans have flooded abroad since the government relaxed a travel ban in 1989 which barred overseas travel for pleasure all but the middle-aged and elderly.

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Application forms may be obtained from the school's reception desk, phone: 845572, 847191 and should be returned by Wednesday 30 October 1991.

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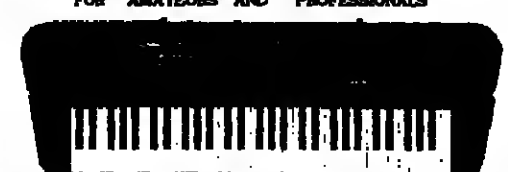
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Ten Select in HER ALIBI

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Yugoslav army tightens grip around Dubrovnik

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — The Yugoslav army tightened its grip around the Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik and fought sporadic mortar duels with Croatian forces overnight, Croatian radio said Tuesday.

The radio said the night was generally calm but reported mortar attacks in the besieged town of Vukovar and Belisce in north-east Croatia, and gunfire around Zadar on the western coast.

It said a Croatian National Guardsman was killed and three were seriously wounded in heavy fighting Monday evening as the army thrust north along the coast towards Dubrovnik, a historic medieval town known as the "pearl of the Adriatic."

Sporadic shooting continued around Dubrovnik overnight but there were no heavy battles, the radio said.

The fighting has eased because of heavy rain and cold but has continued despite a new European Community (EC) backed truce, intended to end almost four months of fighting over Croatia's independence moves.

At least 27 people have been killed in the last four days of a conflict in which more than 1,000 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have died since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

The federal army has been pushing towards Dubrovnik at the southern tip of Croatia and it has been virtually cut off from the outside world for three weeks. Four towns near Dubrovnik have been wrecked beyond recognition, radio Croatia said.

Quoting the Dubrovnik Medical Centre, the radio said 28 people had been killed and 264 wounded in the area since the start of military operations against the city early this month.

It said more than 10,000 women, children, sick and elderly had fled from the city but about 60,000 remained.

The army kept up its artillery and tank shelling Monday across the rebel republic of 4.5 million people.

Heavy mortar duels were reported in Podravska Slatina and Mikleus in central Croatia and around Vukovar and Osijek in the east Monday. Mortar rounds were fired near a dozen other Croatian towns as well.

There were reports of fighting Monday around villages near the motorway linking Belgrade to the Croatian capital of Zagreb, closed since August because of shooting across the road. Travel between the two cities is almost impossible.

The Serb-led federal army fiercely opposes Croatia's independence and has sided with the 600,000-strong Serbian minority in the breakaway rebel republic.

The EC, fearing the conflict could ignite Yugoslavia's explosive mix of ethnic groups and religions into a full civil war, has been trying to negotiate a halt in the fighting.

But the 10th EC-backed ceasefire since June passed largely unnoticed Saturday and EC efforts to bring peace to the Balkan country of 23.5 million people again looked unlikely to succeed.

Showing signs of frustration, the EC said it would pull out six of its helicopters, in Yugoslavia to help 200 EC observers oversee peace efforts, saying the fighting made it impossible for the aircraft to operate.

In a separate development, Yugoslavia's largest Republic of Serbia Monday banned a planned referendum on the autonomy of its southern, Muslim-inhabited

region of Sanjak.

The ballot, scheduled for Oct. 25-27, is being organised by the Party of Democratic Action, a largely Muslim party which has long advocated regional self-rule.

Muslims are considered a separate ethnic group in Yugoslavia and the ban raises the possibility of serious inter-ethnic tensions and clashes in southwestern Serbia.

Sanjak, autonomous in World War II, also stretches into Montenegro. Any trouble there also could provoke even more tension in the explosive state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the population is 44 per cent Muslim, 31 per cent Serb and about 17 per cent Croat.

Sanjak, which has thus far escaped the ethnic violence that has plagued other parts of Yugoslavia, has about 440,000 people two-thirds of whom are Muslim. If Sanjak declares itself autonomous, it would cut the only link between landlocked Serbia and Montenegro, its small ally on the Adriatic coast.

The Serbian government has declared the proposed referendum to be "country to the state constitution, according to which the republic's territory is indivisible."

It described the plebiscite, which is to take place in six districts in Serbia and three in Montenegro, as "illegal and irresponsible."

"The government will not permit Muslim religious feelings to be misused," said the statement, adding that legal "measures will be taken against those who break the laws and the constitution of Serbia."

Muslim leaders in Sanjak have already announced that the vote will take place regardless of possible repercussions.

Russia accused of fuelling ethnic unrest

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The opposition leader of the Chechen-Ingush Republic has said that a standoff in the region between his armed forces and those backing the government of Russia was at a "dangerous lull."

Dzhokhar Dudayev, leader of the United Congress of Chechen People, charged that deputies in the Russian Parliament were trying to disrupt the region's separatist movement.

"I would say the situation is at a dangerous lull. Destructive forces are trying to destabilise the situation in the republic and split our movement," Mr. Dudayev said in an interview published in the daily newspaper Pravda.

"These are Russian parliamentarians who avoided having talks with the leadership of the United Congress as well as the leadership of the Russian Interior Ministry... but they will definitely fail."

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin demanded Saturday that separatist leaders in the Chechen-Ingush Republic, an autonomous region in the northern Caucasus, hand over their weapons and evacuate captured government buildings.

In a statement addressed to the United Congress of Chechen People, in open armed rebellion in the capital Grozny, Mr. Yeltsin said he would take all legal measures to enforce his order after a three-day grace period.

"In the course of recent weeks, the peaceful land of the Chechen-Ingush (Republic) has become an arena for mass disorders and armed clashes," Mr. Yeltsin said in a statement.

The autonomous Chechen-Ingush Republic, home to 1.3 million mostly Sunni Muslim inhabitants, is the latest hotspot of ethnic unrest to boil over in what remains of the Soviet Union.

Russian television showed footage of an Armenian family lying dead in pools of blood after being shot in Nagorno-Karabakh, site of the most intractable of Soviet ethnic conflicts.

Gorbachev, republics ask Ukraine to stay in union

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev and leaders of eight republics told the powerful Ukraine "Tuesday it was an 'irreplaceable' part of the Soviet Union and appealed to it not to break away."

"The Ukraine is one of the biggest republics in the union. Its role in the development of our country, in everything of which our peoples can rightly be proud, is irreplaceable," the appeal carried by Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

"Let us be frank, we cannot imagine a union without the Ukraine."

The appeal clearly reflected concern among the republics at the Ukraine's failure to sign an economic cooperation agreement last Friday, seen by Mr. Gorbachev as the first step towards a new political union.

Leningrad area has a population of 52 million and represents about a quarter of the Soviet Union's

economic potentials. Its parliament declared independence in August immediately after a failed Moscow coup by Communist hardliners. A referendum on Dec. 1 is expected to show overwhelming support for secession.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said in Malta Monday that the Ukraine would sign the economic cooperation treaty, but did not specify when and on what conditions.

Ukrainian officials had previously said the pact smacked too much of old-style Soviet central control.

Even if the Ukraine does sign, there is strong opposition within the republic to Mr. Gorbachev's attempts to win approval of a separate political pact creating a new, looser Soviet Union.

The Ukraine was one of five republics which boycotted a session of the new-style Soviet parliament that opened Monday.

Seoul premier in N. Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik got a cool reception Tuesday in rival North Korea after announcing he planned to use rare high-level talks to demand that the North open its nuclear facilities for international inspection.

Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik told reporters before crossing the heavily armed border that he would demand that Communist North Korea halt nuclear weapons development and allow inspections "without any conditions."

There was no immediate reply from the North. The rigid, secretive Communist government has said it would refuse inspections until U.S. nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea and the South also allows inspections.

Mr. Chung also said he would demand that the North give up its plans to build nuclear weapons. It was the first time the South said it would broach the sensitive subject at the prime minister-level talks about easing enduring cold war tensions on the divided Korean peninsula.

5 more names added to list of top U.N. post candidates

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Security Council members have added the names of five prominent personalities to the roster of candidates for the post of U.N. secretary-general, the president of the council, Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan of India, has announced.

The five were listed by him in the following order: Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg; Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek; Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who heads U.N. humanitarian operations in the Gulf; Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

They are in addition to nine earlier candidates, including six sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Mr. Gharekhan disclosed the five new names after closed-door council consultations during which he said members held a straw poll — an unofficial sounding of opinion.

He declined to give the results of the poll, except to say: "We have five new names... proposed by members of the council."

The names of the nine earlier candidates on the council's list have not been officially disclosed, but they are known to include the following submitted several weeks ago by the OAU:

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali; Zimbabwe Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero; Kenneth Dazdie of Ghana, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development; James Jonah of Sierra Leone; U.N. Undersecretary-General for special political questions former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and former physics professor and Culture Minister Ngoma Francois Owono of Gabon.

Three other names that appeared on the list are: Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus; Namse Terence, a former U.N. representative of Burundi and Michael Doo Kingue of Cameroon, executive director of the U.N. Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

One source said Mr. Ghali and Mr. Chidzero did well in a straw poll but there was no confirmation.

The council president said another straw poll would be held in the very near future.

The council's deliberations are to choose a successor to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

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Cambodia accused of launching 11th-hour offensive

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian guerrillas accused government forces Tuesday of launching an 11th-hour attack to grab land back before Wednesday's peace accord.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front said five government troops, one guerrilla and a woman civilian had been killed in two days of fighting around a guerrilla enclave near the Thai-Cambodian border.

Spokesman Ok Serei Sopheak said both sides were pounding each other with artillery Tuesday but there had been no ground fighting since KPNLF troops recaptured a base on Monday.

An agreement is to be signed in Paris Wednesday to end almost 13 years of civil war. A huge U.N. peacekeeping force will be deployed to disarm the armies and monitor a ceasefire until elections are held.

"They are trying to eliminate as much of our liberated zone as possible before the agreement and take back people under our control," said Mr. Ok, speaking by telephone from the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

"We will do our best to defend our population."

He expressed concern that fighting could continue even after the accord was signed since the vanguard of the peacekeeping force would take some time to get in place.

Government army officers said Monday the KPNLF had started the fighting after Phnom Penh authorities tightened controls on cross-border trading, depriving a guerrilla-run black market of goods.

"There's definitely something going on," said a relief worker in Aranyaprathet. "It was certainly very heavy on Saturday night with outgoing and landing mortar fire."

The U.S.-backed KPNLF are a small non-Communist group allied with the Communist Khmer Rouge and forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the exiled former king who now heads a provisional national council, joining all factions.

In Phnom Penh, the head of Cambodia's ruling party expressed serious doubts about the ability of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) effectively to monitor the demobilisation of guerrilla forces.

"I don't know whether UNTAC will have enough ability or officials to supervise the forest regions and mountains," said Chea Sim, president of the former Communist Party now known as the Cambodia People's Party.

He said troops of "the other side" were garrisoned in remote areas protected by a cordon of mines.

"We realise that within UNTAC there will be groups to take away landmines but how successful will they be and could they fully observe the other side?" he told reporters.

Woman on bail after allegations of palace drugs racket

LONDON (R) — A woman who was arrested over allegations of a drugs racket was being run by a servant's quarters at Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace in London was freed on bail Monday. Police said she was released on police bail until Dec. 3, pending further inquiries.

The 31-year-old woman, who was not named by police, was detained within hours of the publication of a newspaper report headlined "Drug Dealing At The Palace," which said a young drug pusher was working from her home in the palace grounds.

The Daily Mirror said the woman, whose father is a royal clerk, pled guilty to "under the noses of palace security guards" and used the main Buckingham Palace telephone number to arrange drug deals. Clients used the code word "Charlie," slang for cocaine, when they placed orders.

When they placed orders.

When they placed orders.

Georgia imposes curfew on cows, pigs

MOSCOW (R) — Local authorities in a Georgian town have imposed a selective dusk-to-dawn curfew and violators face punishment of death. The town of Lenekhi in the southern Soviet republic has ordered cattle and pigs off streets and squares after dark, TASS News Agency reported.

The agency, quoting a local newspaper, said livestock found in public places would be sent straight to the slaughterhouse and owners would receive no compensation.

Lincoln letter sells for \$28,600

DETROIT (AP) — A letter written by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 sold for \$28,600 during a telephone auction. Collectors and dealers nationwide bid on the letter Saturday at the Dumouchelles Gallery in Detroit.

A Beverly Hills, California, dealer and a Detroit collector battled for the letter until the Detroit collector, whose name was not released by the gallery, prevailed. The president's letter is dated Oct. 16, 1863, and addressed to T.C. Durant, an employee of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Dumouchelles spokesman Joe Walker said the letter was of interest because of Mr. Lincoln's apparent befuddlement with a telegram sent to him by Durkin.

"I remember receiving nothing from you... and I do not comprehend your dispatch of today," Mr. Lincoln wrote. "In fact I do not remember, if I ever knew, who you are. And I have very little conception as to what you are telegraphing about."

Girl injured falling from runaway kite

SMITHFIELD, Australia (AP) — A 6-year-old girl suffered a broken leg falling from a runaway kite that witnesses said lifted her 20 metres off the ground. Katy Johnson was watching the Australian kite flying championships north of Cairns in the country's far north when she grabbed the rope of a large kite that spectators said looked like a parachute.

Blustery winds grabbed the kite, which came loose from a four-wheel-drive vehicle it was tied to, and the girl was swept up into the air. An unidentified woman suffered cuts on her legs when she tried in vain to pull the kite down.

Katy then slid about 15 metres down the rope before falling five metres into a field and breaking her left leg. "She looked like a rag doll at first, but then I heard her scream," said witness Russell Francis. "I think she saved her own life. She was up an awful long way, but it was quick thinking to try to slide down the rope."

Francis said no one knew how the kite came loose. "I don't know how on earth the girl managed to get into the air," he said. "The wind was very strong, and once the girl was in the air she floated up quickly."

'Afternoon catnaps improve work'

LONDON (R) — A catnap of 20 minutes after lunch can improve people's work and cheer them up, but longer periods of sleep make them feel groggy, according to a British expert, Professor James Horne, author of the book "We Sleep and a Teacher at Loughborough University in central England, said catnaps were refreshing and natural. "Our internal sleep-wake clock is designed naturally for two sleeps a day, a long one at night, and a short nap in the afternoon," he told The Mirror.

"What the hell are we supposed to do now?" one Republican organizer in New Orleans asked plaintively. "I can't vote for a Nazi and I can't figure out how to vote for a liberal. I've fought against for 20 years."

"Maybe I'll just move to another state."

Fresh looting sweeps Zaire town

KINSHASA (R) — A fresh explosion of looting has swept Zaire's major copper-mining town of Lubumbashi, witnesses arriving in the capital Kinshasa said Tuesday.

The witnesses said looters ransacked the southeastern city Monday night as the Central African country was locked in a power struggle between President

Mobutu Sese Seko and opposition Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

"They looted everything, all night," said one resident contacted by telephone. "They've stripped the face of the town. They've even taken corrugated metal from the houses."

Air links with Lubumbashi, in Zaire's copper-rich Shaba province, were cut.

An eyewitness told Belgian Radio in Brussels that soldiers carried out the looting, firing automatic weapons in the air.

The man, who the radio said was employed by the state mining firm Gecamines, said by telephone from Lubumbashi that damage was substantial but there were no deaths.



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